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French seek to curb bankers' power

Euro money divides Bonn and Paris

FROM ROGER BOYES IN NUREMBERG

FRANCE and Germany last night failed to patch up their quarrel over the stability pact which is supposed to secure fiscal discipline after the start-up of European monetary union.

Instead, under the guise of declaring a common European war against the Mafia and terrorism, they opened up a new front in the campaign for a more tightly integrated Europe. In a joint open letter to the Irish presidency they urged that the principle of "flexibility", which allows fast integrators to move forward without other more sluggish Europeans, be extended from foreign policy to areas such as common immigration, visa and asylum decisions.

If the ideas are taken up they could pose a serious challenge to Britain, which has been resisting federal European solutions to interior and judicial matters.

The joint initiative could not disguise the German team's sense of failure. After several hours of talks between Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor, and President Chirac the best that could be produced was a statement that every effort would be made to secure agreement on the stability pact before the Dublin summit on Friday.

Herr Kohl refused to be drawn into the British debate over the criteria for entry, saying: "There is no point at all in speculating now about who will or who will not take part in monetary union, that is a decision for 1998."

The differences over EMU between M Chirac and Herr Kohl are as stark as ever. Theo Vaigel, the German Finance Minister, was adamant in talks with his French counterpart Jean Arthuis that some form of automatic sanctions had to be imposed on monetary backsliders.

M Arthuis and, later M

Cabinet sceptics secure debate

Senior ministers have secured the right to a Cabinet debate on the single currency in the new year and are clinging to the hope that it will result in the Conservatives adopting a more sceptical line in the months leading to the general election.

Chirac, said that major financial decisions had to be made by democratically elected politicians and in the words of the French leader, "a counter-balance had to be found to the European central bank, just as the Bundesbank has a balancing element in the form of the German Government".

Yet Herr Kohl, accompanied by half a dozen ministers, did not take up the French call for a so-called "stability council" that could act as an economic counterweight to the central bankers.

The arguments with Britain became apparent when the two leaders released their letter to the Irish presidency. For example, France and Germany want the Schengen agreement, which scraps border controls between certain European states, to be made part of European policy by attaching a protocol to the Union treaty. This could then become a model for other areas of policy.

The two countries propose that common European standards should be set for asylum to prevent suspected terrorists or criminals sheltering in one member state. Again and again M Chirac came back to the need for a coherent EU response to terrorism, which is fresh in his mind after last week's bomb attack on the Paris Metro.

Chancellor Kohl promised

to steam ahead with Europol, the European police force, despite British reservations about the large supervisory role allocated to the European Court of Justice. The EU should also work out minimum penalties for certain crimes so that organised criminals could not play off one EU country against another.

The Franco-German suggestions will not only touch British interests. The French-inspired plan to harmonise drug policies, and thus end Holland's liberal line on soft drugs, gained the full backing of the Chancellor.

Both countries signalled their intention to extend the use of qualified majority voting to many areas of foreign policy and came up with a rather scrappy compromise on "Mr Europe", the notional figurehead for a common European foreign policy.

The two leaders agreed there was a need for a "face" and a "voice" to European foreign policy, but seemed unsure whether it should be a specially created position. Other countries had to be consulted on this, said the letter in an unusual concession to the rest of Europe.

Malcolm Rifkind said yesterday that Britain's ability to negotiate at the Dublin summit might be hampered by the fact that some governments were waiting for Labour to get into power.

The Foreign Secretary told a Commons committee that a number of governments were unwilling at this stage to address some of the issues on which the Government was taking a firm line for that reason. His words marked the start of new offensive against Labour in which the Tories will suggest that pro-federalist states are waiting for Tony Blair.

'Therapy' session, page 13



Lisa Potts, left, after the verdict, with Denise Bennett, the head teacher at St Luke's, where the attack took place

Judge praises machete heroine

By CAROL MIDGLEY

A NURSERY nurse who was stabbed repeatedly as she shielded children from a machete-wielding man who ran amok during a Teddy Bears picnic was commended for her bravery by a judge yesterday.

Mr Justice Sedley said he would seek formal recognition for Lisa Potts's actions as Horriet Campbell, 33, a paranoid schizophrenic, was found guilty on seven counts of attempted murder.

Miss Potts, 21, who suffered deep wounds to her back, chest and hands, a broken arm and severed tendons in her hands, had grabbed the children, hidden some in a school storeroom and some beneath her skirt as the blows rained down. Stafford Crown

Court heard that she had shown "astonishing courage" and completely disregarded her own safety to save the children's lives.

The judge told the jury: "You may be thinking that Lisa Potts deserves more formal recognition. I think so too. I shall be taking what steps I can to ensure that is considered."

Miss Potts, who is still receiving occupational therapy for her wounds, burst into tears as the verdicts were read and later said she was delighted justice had been done.

She said of the judge: "It was really nice of him to say that but for me it feels like on that day I hadn't really done anything out of bravery. I was in a position to run back for

the children and that's what I did. It was out of instinct really more than bravery."

"I'm just happy that justice has been done. I'm now quite excited by the thought of getting back to school and seeing the children. I may get over what he did to me in time but I can never forgive him for injuring those innocent children who had not done anything to anybody."

"I'm looking forward to a rest over Christmas and then getting back to school, back to where I belong. The children are doing absolutely marvellously. You can't believe that children with such terrible scars on their faces would come out of it all so well."

Campbell, 33, whose mental condition was not diagnosed

until after his arrest despite a previous court appearance when a probation report recommended his mental health be examined, is facing life imprisonment.

He launched his attack during the summer picnic on July 8 after becoming convinced that the children, aged three and four, from St Luke's Infants School, Blakenhall, Wolverhampton, were devils.

Continued on page 2, col 5

MPs fail to agree on action against Willetts

By ARTHUR LEATHLEY
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

A COMMONS disciplinary hearing to decide the political future of David Willetts broke up last night as MPs argued over his punishment.

A cross-party dispute broke out as MPs put the finishing touches to a report that Mr Willetts has conceded will determine whether he resigns as Paymaster General.

After more than 15 hours of secret deliberations, the Commons Standards and Privileges Committee was still unable to decide whether to recommend a severe sanction against Mr Willetts. He has said that he would resign if the committee recommended such a punishment but Tory members of the committee insist that he should receive no more than a mild rebuke.

The argument broke out as Tony Newton, the Leader of the Commons and the chairman, tried to prevent the committee taking the highly unusual step of publishing a majority and a minority report.

Labour MPs were confident last night that Quentin Davies, a Tory MP on the committee who strongly criticised Mr Willetts at a public hearing, would side with them. They want Mr Willetts to be censured for intervening in an earlier disciplinary inquiry into allegations surrounding Neil Hamilton, the former trade minister.

Mr Willetts, when a government Whip, wrote a memo describing a conversation he had had with Sir Geoffrey Johnson Smith, the chairman of the now-defunct Members' Interests Select Committee.

The Standards and Privileges Committee will meet again today to try to finalise its report. Senior Labour figures accused Tory members of the committee of trying to "sabotage" the inquiry.

Tenth victim

Michael Forsyth, the Scottish Secretary, defended the Government's handling of the food poisoning outbreak, as the bacterium claimed its tenth victim. Mr Forsyth was addressing the Scottish Grand Committee.

Strike breakers

Several dozen British lorry drivers have outwitted Greek farmers' roadblocks and driven over winding mountain roads to deliver their loads to Athens. The drivers had been stranded in the port of Patras.

Peers back women's right to throne

By JAMES LANDALE, POLITICAL REPORTER

LORD ARCHER won cross-party support in the House of Lords yesterday to press on with his plans to give women equal rights to succeed to the throne.

Peers voted by 74 to 53 to approve his Humble Address to the Queen, a rare procedure which effectively asks for the monarch's permission to bring a Bill before Parliament.

Humble addresses must be made on all Bills relating to constitutional matters and are usually accepted without ques-

tion. But in extraordinary scenes, Lord Mackay of Clashfern, the Lord Chancellor, who acts as Speaker in the Lords, ordered a vote when some peers voiced their opposition to the move.

Lord Archer moved the address "praying that her majesty may be graciously pleased to allow that her undoubted prerogative and interest may not stand in the way of the consideration by Parliament during the present session of any measure pro-

viding for the removal of any distinction between the sexes in determining the succession to the crown."

But when Lord Mackay put the question to the House, several peers shouted "Not content" and Lord Mackay called a vote.

Lord Archer's proposed Bill would end the tradition of primogeniture under which the eldest child of a monarch always succeeds to throne unless that child is female. At present, the daughter of the

monarch becomes heir only if she has no brothers or if her brothers and their descendants are dead.

Consequently, the Succession to the Throne Bill, if enacted, would raise the Princess Royal above the Duke of York in the line of succession to the throne. Its greatest impact would come in several decades' time should Prince William's first child be a girl. She eventually would become Queen even if she had a younger brother.

Inflation boost for Chancellor

A favourable set of inflation figures yesterday lengthened the odds on a base rate rise when the Chancellor meets the Governor of the Bank of England tomorrow.

Share prices also bounced back following Friday's sharp falls - as central bank chiefs from Britain and Germany tried to soothe the fears of the markets. The FTSE 100 index clawed back more than 48 points to close at 4,011.6.

Boots faces £30,000 claim for lost photos

By PAUL WILKINSON

A SCIENTIST demanded yesterday that Boots the Chemist should pay £30,000 for an expedition to the Arctic Circle so he can re-take pictures lost by the high street chain when he left them to be developed.

Dr Barry Matthews claims the 36 shots he took at Franz Josef Land, 70 miles from the North Pole, are essential for his research on climatic change. He is suing the company for the cost of leading a six-man team back to the wastes of northern Russia to re-take the shots.

At Leeds County Court, Dr Matthews, 59, who was representing himself, said: "The expedition I led in 1993 cost £2,000 a

person. I was the first scientist to go there as it used to be a Russian nuclear base. I took some very important pictures. These pictures were subsequently lost. An expedition of the same kind would cost around £4,500 each as Russian ice-cutting boats and helicopters are not as cheap to hire as they were."

Dr Matthews, a father-of-two from Rodley, Leeds, said: "I would like an expedition of six people this time. I do not want the money for myself but for scientific research, and Boots would get a lot of good publicity out of it."

"I need to get this sorted out as soon as possible as I have heart disease. I refused a by-pass operation earlier this year and

time may be running out for me. I want to do this while my health still allows."

Earlier, the geologist told the court that the pictures showed soils, vegetation, the sea and an icebreaker. He had undertaken his first trip in an attempt to determine whether a new Ice Age was on the way.

The court heard that Boots's Albion Street branch in Leeds had a problem developing the film and staff sent it to their specialist laboratories in Nottingham without Dr Matthews's consent. However, it was lost in transit. Boots initially denied responsibility, but later admitted liability. The company was not represented at the hearing, which was adjourned.



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Spinning into orbit with politicians who were born to run

According to a panel of celebrity astrologers in the latest *She* magazine, those born under Aries make the best politicians. Arians are "born leaders", "honour", "idealistic" and "champions of the underdog". They include Neil Kinnock and John Major.

The news for Tony Blair is

bad. None of the panel thinks his sign, Taurus, well-favoured for politics. They recommend interior decoration. It was with *She* in mind that I took my seat at the Commons yesterday to watch the Deputy Prime Minister facing Questions. Michael Heseltine's sign is also Aries — but only just. He is on the cusp with Pisces. Pisceans are "terrible map-readers" ("get lost and give confusing directions") but they shine at jobs in therapy ("sensitive and unshockable").

Mr Heseltine's present post

seems to call as much for his therapeutic as his political skills. Both were in evidence yesterday as he assured Labour doubters that all was for the best in this best possible of all Tory governments. "The focus at this present juncture in history is on the Millennium Festival," he told MPs, the therapeutic Piscean getting the better of the honest Arian.

Beside him was Roger Freeman (Kettering, Gemini — "can and will say anything to anybody") who is the Civil Service Minister. Gemini's are



warned off politics by *She* ("change their minds too often; cannot stick to a policy") but it is a warning Mr Freeman took to heart many years ago. He has long ceased to involve himself in politics and sounds more like a civil servant than the civil servants he administers. Asked about the Bolton magistrates' bench yesterday, he declared: "In September I appointed 18 persons to the Bolton bench." Where other ministers appoint people, Mr Freeman appoints persons.

His interrogator, Peter Thurnham (Lib Dem — well, sort of — Bolton NE) was impatient for a new magistrates' court building. Mr Thurnham, a Leo, crossed the

floor from the Tories two months ago but few could work out why. If he had waited a few weeks he might have got at least one and probably two out of the following three: a new magistrates' court, a knighthood, a good reason to resign the whip. He must never seek work as a waiter. Astrologers confirm what whips already know: "hate taking orders."

Next in Roger Freeman's queue of petitioners was Labour's William O'Brien (Normanton) who was wor-

ried about the disappearing cultural heritage of northern England. What could the minister do to boost Yorkshiremen's pride in their inheritance? "I was very pleased to visit the rail-freight terminal in the Hon Gentleman's constituency recently," was Freeman's soothing reply.

Lady Olga Maitland (C, Sutton & Cheam) brought him an inquiry so complex that even Freeman struggled. It concerned bureaucracy in the prosecution of juvenile crime. The chic Lady Olga persisted,

looking awfully intense. We recalled Sunday's Observer. A survey of MPs' partygoing habits noted that she once arrived at Langan's restaurant in a wheelbarrow, a spray of flowers between her teeth. She told reporters: "Everyone lets their hair down once in a while." The day she arrives in the chamber in a wheelbarrow, with or without flowers, will be a happy one for Civil Service Questions.

As *She* notes of Gemini: "No one better for passing the time of day."

Three carrots a day may help to keep cancer away

By Nigel Hawkes, Science Editor

BRITISH scientists have discovered why a diet rich in fruit and vegetables may prevent cancer. Dr David Hughes and colleagues at the Institute of Food Research at Norwich made the discovery when investigating the effects of beta-carotene, a substance found in carrots, green vegetables and fruit. The findings are being presented today at the joint congress of the Biochemical Society and British Society for Immunology in Harrogate.

Healthy volunteers had

beta-carotene added to their diet in amounts equivalent to eating three to four carrots a day. At the end of a month the scientists found increased levels of a key chemical involved in helping the immune system to destroy cancer cells.

For the killer cells of the immune system to be switched

on, they must recognise foreign cells. This depends on the cells being "presented" in the right way, a task carried out by white blood cells called monocytes, using molecules known as MHC II on their surface. The Norwich team found that in the volunteers, levels of MHC II increased significantly, making it more likely that cells that had turned cancerous would be dealt with. Dr Sue Southon, one of the team carrying out the research, said: "We're not saying that this alone will prevent cancer, but it is the kind of response that contributes to a beneficial effect. It would certainly be our advice that it's worth eating a few carrots every day."

She said that the levels of beta-carotene used in the tri-

als, typical of a high-vegetable diet, produced a beneficial effect, but that at higher levels the effect may be reversed. That could explain why trials using large doses of beta-carotene were disappointing. Multiple sclerosis may be caused by bacteria or viruses hiding in the brain, the meeting will be told. Professor Hugh Perry of the University of Oxford has successfully reproduced the tissue damage seen in MS patients by injecting killed bacteria into the brains of rats. He expected that the immune system would respond by mobilising to destroy the bacterial cells, but was surprised when no such change took place. Instead, he will tell the meeting, the bacteria simply remained trapped in the brain for many months, with-

out doing any apparent damage. When a second injection of the same bacteria was made into the rats' skin, however, white blood cells were mobilised and entered the brain and attacked the bacteria lurking there. In the course of the attack they also damaged blood vessels and the insulating sheath around nerve fibres — the myelin sheath. This kind of damage is typical of that seen in multiple sclerosis. Professor Perry therefore suggests that MS may be caused by a two-stage process: first a sub-clinical infection of the brain then a second infection to other parts of the body which stimulates the immune system into action. Brain cells may be damaged by a "bystander" effect.

Labour plans profit curb on utilities

By James Landale, Political Reporter

BILLIONS of pounds could be returned to privatised utility customers under a Labour plan to impose further curbs on the companies' profits. British Telecom, British Gas and the privatised water and electricity companies are already facing Labour's one-off "windfall tax" if the party takes office. But under a new plan announced yesterday, the companies will also be forced to share their profits with

customers if they rise above "normal" levels. Utility regulators would set the profit levels, and if they went above this threshold, companies would have to share the extra cash with customers by reducing bills. Although the move will anger the utilities, Labour hopes the scheme will be popular with customers. As Frank Dobson, the Shadow Environment Secretary, published Labour's "annual report" on the privatised water industry yesterday, he con-

firmed that Labour wanted to apply the same approach to all the privatised utilities. "Under the existing approach, the regulators look at an industry and decide what prices they think will be reasonable and in doing so they work out what they think will be reasonable profits," he said. "They always get it wrong and the companies always make far more profits than the regulators had anticipated." He said it would be better if the regulators worked out what would appear to be a

"normal" profit. "Then, if the profits exceeded that, the benefits should be shared between customers and the company." Labour's document said that the utilities would still have a profit incentive. "Because the utility would retain a share of the excess profits, there would still be an incentive towards increasing efficiency and funds would be available for investment." Michael Heseltine, the Deputy Prime Minister, described the plan as "state control by the back door".



Campbell, 33, was found guilty of attempted murder

Mother's death led to obsession

By Carol Midgley

THE magistrate who jailed Horrend, Campbell for two months for carrying a machete eight months before he attacked children at a nursery school yesterday defended his decision not to order a psychiatric report.

As it was confirmed that Campbell, convicted yesterday of seven counts of attempted murder for the attack at St Luke's Infants School, was a paranoid schizophrenic who complained of hearing voices in his head, Ian Gillespie, a stipendiary magistrate, said in a statement released by the Lord Chancellor's Department that he had concluded that there was no reason to order such a report and that he was still satisfied that was the correct decision.

Campbell's condition deteriorated after his mother Rebekah's death four years ago and he became obsessed with mass murderers such as Thomas Hamilton and Martin Bryant. He would walk the streets of Wolverhampton talking to himself but neighbours regarded him merely as an eccentric loner.

Yesterday Mr Gillespie said: "My notes confirm that

the pre-sentence probation report invited me to adjourn his case and order a psychiatric report on the grounds that Campbell had set fire to his car and had heard voices whispering in his head for some years."

He said he had been told that Campbell would not co-operate, but that alone would not have deterred him from ordering a report. However, Campbell's solicitor told him that he denied having heard voices, and he decided a report was not needed.

Harry Fletcher, assistant general secretary of the National Association of Probation Officers, insisted the courts should have ensured Campbell received psychiatric treatment before the attack. "In my experience the vast majority of mentally ill offenders are reluctant to accept help. It's the job of the psychiatric services to persuade them into treatment," he said.

The jury at the trial heard that Campbell, who has been diagnosed as a paranoid schizophrenic, believed that children at the school were verbally abusing him — shouting "nigger" and "celibate".

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Princess goes the full distance to help charities

By QUENTIN LETTS in NEW YORK and EMMA WILKINS in LONDON

MARYLEBONE leprosy a.m. Manhattan. That was yesterday's engagements diary on a busy, transatlantic sort of Monday for Diana, Princess of Wales.

The Princess, with a trim new hairstyle, used Concorde to fulfil her commitments on one of the busiest days in her new life since her divorce from the Prince of Wales in August. Since then, she has undertaken just five engagements for a handful of her six remaining charities.

This time, she had a 10.55am speaking engagement and an 8pm dinner and ball separated by 3,000 miles, a five-hour time difference and a matter of style.

The morning involved a speech on the importance of reaching out and touching leprosy sufferers. The evening was at the Costume Institute ball at the Metropolitan Museum in New York, the splashiest fund-raising party in the

north American social calendar, where her well-publicised attendance resulted in record ticket sales and attracted a swarm of Manhattan males keen to spin her on the dancefloor.

For her duties as patron of Britain's Leprosy Mission, the Princess set off her trim by long-time hairdresser Sam McKnight with a pair of hooped gold earrings, burnt orange jacket and black skirt. Although the style was much discussed by the small crowd outside the conference, it was nothing more spectacular than one of her regular six-weekly trims.

At the central London conference of more than a hundred charity workers, she emphasised that leprosy is not an Old Testament disease but a current problem. Seven years ago, in Indonesia, she attracted worldwide attention when she touched sufferers during a tour of a hospital. "It has

always been my concern to touch people with leprosy - trying to show in a simple action that they are not reviled nor are we repulsed," the Princess said. "It is not a condition that only exists in the Old Testament of the Holy Bible. No, this is not something of the past but a very serious issue in the present."

The Princess had already agreed to address the conference of 14 leprosy charities when she was invited to the American ball by her friend Liz Tilberis, editor of *Harper's Bazaar* and co-chairman of the society dance. She is fighting ovarian cancer and the Princess was determined to fly to New York to support her.

The magazine paid for her travel and hotel costs, which included catching the 7pm Concorde from London, a helicopter transfer from New York's Kennedy airport to Manhattan, and a limousine from the British-run Carlyle hotel to the Metropolitan Museum, where it was close to late London time (8pm local time) when the Princess made her entrance as guest of honour.

"It was a very busy day indeed for the Princess but she was determined to fulfil both commitments," a spokeswoman said.

The \$1,000-a-ticket gala which is, effectively, the international fashion world's Christmas party. Founded in the early Seventies, it raises funds for a fashion collection at the Metropolitan Museum.

The throng ranged from Hollywood actors to billionaire bankers, moneyed masters of Manhattan's Upper East side, several of the world's supermodels and an array of fashion designers.

The Princess was expected to be introduced to a crowd that included Edgar Bronfman, Christy Turlington and Bianca Jagger. Odds were being taken on the recently-married John Kennedy Jr offering her a waltz.



Yoshihiro Sekiguchi with his latest purchase and future travelling companion

Teddy Edward goes east

TEDDY EDWARD, the bear that won television fame travelling the world, today embarked for Japan after being sold for £34,500 at auction. The stuffed bear, which inspired a series of books and appeared on BBC TV's *Watch With Mother*, fetched more than six times the amount auctioneers Christie's had estimated.

A Japanese collector, who already owns the world's most expensive teddy, bought the bear after fierce bidding at the London showroom.

Yoshihiro Sekiguchi, 50, who owns a toy company and teddy bear museum in Japan, said he was inspired by Teddy Edward's travels. He said: "I'm very interested in bears who have stories behind them and this one made the longest travels ever. I just wanted to join Teddy Edward on his travels." The collector plans to travel the world with a selection of his bears so more people can enjoy them.

The Teddy Edward story began in the early 1960s when Patrick Matthews began taking

photos of his daughter's toy animals to sell as nursery pictures. The pictures of his daughter Sarah's Chiltern bear came out so well that his wife Mollie wrote a book to accompany them.

The bear was sold with his friends Snowy Toes, Bushy the bush baby and Jasmine the Rabbit. Hundreds of original photographs, the original BBC transmission films for *Watch With Mother* and a complete set of Teddy Edward books were included.

Surgeon is struck off over cancer op blunder

By A STAFF REPORTER

A SURGEON who removed the healthy part of a stomach and intestines of a cancer patient was struck off the medical register by the General Medical Council yesterday.

James Gough made the mistake during a routine procedure on the colon of Robert Hodgkin, 75, at Bolton General Hospital in July last year. The patient died later that month.

Announcing the decision, Sir Herbert Duthie, the professional conduct committee chairman, said that by his "gross error" the doctor had fallen seriously short of the standard of expertise required from a surgeon.

In view of the fact that he represented "a grave danger to patients", the committee had decided not to refer his case to the council's health committee but to order his erasure from the register. The public was entitled to expect doctors to show professional competence and surgeons were expected to know the limits of that competence and to seek assistance from colleagues when necessary, Sir Herbert said.

The committee heard how the operation was performed just two weeks after Mr Gough started work at the hospital, which is now called the Royal Bolton Hospital, under the supervision of a consultant, John Hobbiss. The patient had been admitted in the summer as an emergency with a distended abdomen and bowel problems.

Mr Gough had then concluded the patient needed an operation on his colon. Mr Hobbiss agreed to the procedure and then went to carry out his own work at another theatre just 20 yards away. Later that month Mr Hobbiss and Mr Gough attended a routine meeting with pathologists, where case studies were looked at.

The operation was discussed and investigations re-

vealed that part of the patient's stomach and duodenum appeared to have been removed.

Mr Gough had insisted throughout he had performed a procedure to "resect" the transverse colon and had also assured his boss he had done the correct procedure because he had discovered a tumour.

"My first reaction was that if he really had found a tumour, I was pleased he had discovered it," Mr Hobbiss said. "On the other hand, I was very irritated that when the situation had changed, he had not asked for my advice although I was only 20 yards away."

Mr Hobbiss was "astonished" when he discovered what Mr Gough had done. After performing a laparotomy on Mr Hodgkin, he discovered that the colon was "completely intact" but part of the stomach and intestines had been removed.

"I find it very difficult to understand that someone in a correct frame of mind could make this kind of fundamental error," he added.

Mr Gough admitted failing to ask for advice and assistance from Mr Hobbiss or another experienced surgeon, when it was required. An emotional Mr Gough, 28, told the hearing at the GMC's London headquarters, that his behaviour, with hindsight, had been "irresponsible and unforgivable".

He should have sought advice from Mr Hobbiss and had made a technical error which had ruined his career as a surgeon. During previous procedures at Rochdale, Burnley and Manchester he had been criticised for asking for too much advice from his superiors and this had probably contributed to his failure to consult Mr Hobbiss.

"With hindsight, in not seeking his attendance and advice before doing a section, I was irresponsible," he said. He has 28 days to appeal.



In trim for a marathon day: the Princess in London

Policewoman wins £19,000 for racial insults

By DANIEL MCGRODY

A BLACK woman detective who was racially insulted by a policeman from another force won £19,000 in damages at an industrial tribunal yesterday.

Detective Constable Wendy Richardson, of Thames Valley Police, said she felt "humiliated and traumatised" after a detective from the West Midlands force referred to her as a "nigger" and a "coon" while they were attending a national CID training course last year.

West Midlands Police said last night that it regretted what happened but added that the accused officer, Detective Constable Shane Evans, had not been suspended. A spokesman said: "We take a strong stance against any form of discrimination. Such behaviour will not be tolerated." He added that senior officers wanted to see the written judgment of the tribunal, held in Reading, before deciding on any disciplinary action.

The tribunal chairman, John Hol-

low, yesterday criticised the "dilatory" way that West Midlands had dealt with Constable Richardson's complaint and berated senior officers for not being open-minded in their investigation. The tribunal was told that Constable Evans, 36, who is based at West Bromwich, racially insulted black male colleagues but was never disciplined, only sent on an Equal Opportunities course.

Constable Richardson, who has been in the police for 15 years, wept as the

tribunal found in her favour and awarded her damages for injury to her feelings and her health. Thames Valley Police supported her complaint.

WPC Barbara Welch, of the Thames Valley Police Federation, said after the ruling: "DC Richardson is absolutely delighted it is all over. She can now do her best to get back to her life knowing that she has been justified." She hoped the result would send a message to other police officers that they could bring a complaint and succeed.

Drug spy video switched off

A SFY plane surveillance expert switched off a high-tech video camera at the moment when two vessels in the North Sea were suspected of transferring an illegal cargo, a court was told yesterday.

Mervyn Green, a former naval air surveillance officer now employed by a private firm under contract to the Government, was giving evidence at the trial of five Brit-

ons, three Dutchmen and one American, who deny attempting to smuggle cannabis into Britain on July 29 this year.

Mr Green told the High Court in Dunfermline that over several days two spy planes tracked the progress of a lifeboat and a ketch along the north coast of Scotland.

Donald Findlay, QC, for one of the accused, asked Green why, after the huge cost

of the surveillance, he had shut off the high-tech equipment at the vital moment "when something illegal might be happening".

Mr Green replied: "My instructions were on no account was I to 'spook' the vessels." Had he come closer to film the vessels they would have known immediately they were being watched. The trial continues.

Boy in car attacks too young to charge

By PAUL WILKINSON

A BOY aged eight has admitted to police that he dropped concrete breezeblocks from a bridge on to two cars carrying pregnant women but he cannot be prosecuted because of his age.

The women escaped with minor injuries and shock but police on Merseyside said it was a miracle that no one was killed.

Police are powerless to prosecute because the boy is under ten, the age of criminal responsibility in England. Neither can they administer a caution, in which a senior police officer formally warns the boy about his behaviour. The caution is given in the presence of parents and goes on a criminal record.

Police are to talk to the youngster and his parents about his activities. Further action could be taken through the childcare system if the authorities believe he is in need of care and control.

Police sources said last night that though they wanted to talk to two other boys

allegedly involved in the incidents, they considered the behaviour was by "kids larking around" rather than a gang causing mayhem.

Three cars including two containing pregnant women were hit by objects thrown from a bridge over a main approach road to the Mersey tunnel in Birkenhead.

Sharon Dunn, 24, was showered with glass and needed treatment in hospital for cuts after a breezeblock shattered the window of her boyfriend's car last Wednesday. An hour later a woman from Chester, who is six months pregnant, escaped with shock when a stone smashed the windscreen of her car on the A41.

Police interviewed a boy from Bromborough, who also admitted involvement in a third attack.

Jack Straw, the Shadow Home Secretary, who was touring Merseyside yesterday, said Labour would change the laws on criminal responsibility.

Public school pupil 'stabbed teenager'

By PAUL WILKINSON

A PUBLIC schoolboy killed a teenager with a single stab wound to the heart after a confrontation between his classmates and town youths, a court was told yesterday.

The 16-year-old from Barnard Castle School then waved the knife towards the companions of his victim and said: "Do you want some of this?" He ran off to a friend's home, where he washed the blade and went to bed, Tees-

side Crown Court was told. The youth, who cannot be named for legal reasons, denied murdering Ian Gamble, 16, from Startforth, Durham. The court heard that he was "hyped up" after drinking strong cider and cans of lager with three friends in February this year.

During the evening he collected a lock knife with a 4in blade at a friend's home, telling his companions he was taking it with him as "insurance". Paul Worsley, prosecuting, said the defendant, a day boy, and his friends had left a disco at the school about 10pm. They walked into Barnard Castle, where they were confronted and then chased by five other youths, one of whom was Mr Gamble.

The defendant was eventually caught and there was a struggle before Mr Gamble was stabbed. The defendant claimed in police interviews that he was punched and kicked in the body and head before he pulled the knife.

The trial continues.



Gamble died of single stab wound to heart

Businessmen fell for magic banknotes

By DANIEL MCGRODY

BUSINESSMEN were defrauded of thousands of pounds by conmen after believing that they could turn pieces of black paper into banknotes, it was claimed yesterday. The businessmen were shown how a strip of paper was pressed between genuine £20 and £50 notes and dipped in what they were told was a secret solution. Ten minutes later, when the notes were removed from the liquid, the victims were shown what appeared to be a new banknote.

Dean Armstrong, for the prosecution,

told Southwark Crown Court that the businessmen were allowed to take the "samples" and spend them to make sure they were genuine. They would return with as much as cash they could muster on the promise of "doubling their money". What they did not realise was that the so-called new money was an old note dyed black by a chemical such as iodine and then washed clean in another liquid, Mr Armstrong said. "One of the victims was told that if he could give them £1 million, they could make it into £2 million."

The owner of a London recording

studio and the head of a West End clothing business each handed over £18,000 after meeting the ringleader of the Nigerian gang. The two businessmen were told to return to an hotel in London later in the day to pick up the cash, but found the room empty and their money gone.

Claude Ishmael, 41, of no fixed address, Lazare Dingambe and Guy Yomi-Nkenichon, both 28, of Canning Town, east London, deny conspiracy to defraud between December 1995 and July this year.

The trial continues.

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Work-based learning plan scaled down by Shephard

By JOHN O'LEARY, EDUCATION EDITOR

MINISTERS have scaled down ambitious plans to coax bored teenagers back into education by offering all 14-year-olds the chance of a day a week out of school, it emerged yesterday.

A White Paper on the 14-19 age group left open the possibility of work-based lessons and offered support for a variety of local schemes. But the Government has decided against introducing a national programme.

Gillian Shephard, the Education and Employment Secretary, said her plans, which would include an entitlement to free education or training at any time up to the age of 21, amounted to a "lifeline" for disaffected youngsters. They would be offered a fresh start to improve their skills.

Mrs Shephard, who championed out-of-school education as an option for all teenagers early this year, said the school curriculum should become more work-related. The apparent decision to scale down her original scheme came after consultation with employers and education bodies.

The White Paper, *Learning to Compete*, emphasises that disaffected teenagers and others could still be offered out-of-school education to complement the National Curriculum. Government advisers are to examine modifications to the curriculum to "support under-achieving or demotivated pupils", who will also be offered qualifications

below the level of GCSE. Before the age of 16, teenagers will receive a smart card entitling them to improved careers advice and subsequent education or training. The "learning credit" will be valid to the age of 21. Mrs Shephard insisted that the credits, which will be redeemable only for state-funded programmes, did not amount to a step towards funding education by vouchers, as right-wing Conservatives would like. But the new system will require "convergence" of costs, raising the spectre of cuts in the level of funding for school sixth forms.

Mrs Shephard said: "For the first time ever, this White Paper bridges education and training in school and beyond. It aims to help young people to make choices relevant to employment by providing the information and guidance they need." The measures were intended to revive the staying-on rate in full-time education, which rose steadily to 72.6 per cent of 16-year-olds in 1995, but fell to 71.4 per cent in 1994 and 70.7 per cent in 1995.

Labour said the Government was "stealing its clothes" because the Government's own policies had failed. Labour proposed better opportunities for work experience and work-based courses at college. The National Association of Head Teachers said that students would suffer if learning credits were used as vouchers.

University for work, page 18



Under instruction: Jenny Shaw, 14, and Colin Shakh, 16, spend Friday afternoons learning engineering at People's College in Nottingham

Lessons in practical skills cut truancy

By DAVID CHARTER, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

COLIN SHAKH planned to be a painter and decorator before his school gave him the chance to go to college at 14. Two years later he is preparing to take A levels so that he can become an engineer.

Colin's school, Glaisdale comprehensive in Bilborough, Nottingham, attracted headlines earlier this year when 20 teachers threatened to strike over Richard Wilding, a disruptive 13-year-old.

They claimed he was too disruptive to teach but withdrew the threat in April after the local authority arranged home tuition.

Glaisdale serves two large council estates in an area of 30 per cent unemployment, where only a third of school leavers go on to further education or training. However, the school has noticed a change in attitude among pupils of all abilities since introducing job-related training for 14 and 15-year-olds three years ago. Instead of general studies,

pupils can spend an afternoon at one of three local colleges learning job-related skills in areas as diverse as hairdressing, car mechanics and dental technology. Truancy has fallen and the number going on a training course at 16 has risen by 20 per cent.

Colin, who trained in engineering at People's College in Nottingham while studying for his GCSEs at Glaisdale, said: "I think it is a brilliant opportunity. A lot of people I know don't like school but they love college. They prefer

it because it is a lot more practical and has a different atmosphere." Jenny Shaw, 14, also opted for engineering. "It was different because not many girls choose things like that," she said.

Glaisdale was highlighted by Labour as a model industry partnership scheme in its policy document *Aiming Higher*, particularly because it helped to motivate teenage boys at the age they are most in danger of becoming disaffected. Sir Ron Dearing, the Government's chief curriculum adviser, also identified this tendency in his review of qualifications.

He found that 40,000 young people — one in 12 — do not achieve any GCSEs at any grade, with one in eight failing to gain a grade at English or mathematics. He recommended a two-pronged approach to underachievement: a new qualification below the level of GCSE grade C, and giving teenagers the chance to follow National Vocational Qualifications from the age of 14.

Villagers camp out in fight against wind farm

By MICHAEL PRESTAGE

A BAND of pensioners and housewives camped out in a churchyard in freezing temperatures last night in a battle against plans for a wind turbine overlooking their village in the Cotswolds.

The group, from Nympefield, Gloucestershire, have mounted a round-the-clock vigil for six days. Sitting on folding chairs behind beach windbreaks and relying on a blazing brazier for warmth, they have mobile phones to call in reinforcements if engineers from Midlands Electricity arrive to connect the site to the National Grid.

The majority of the village, population 300, is opposed to the 218 ft turbine being sited on farmland above the village designated a conservation area in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. They fear it might set a precedent that could see the Cotswolds spoilt by wind farms.

The protesters have seen off attempts by security guards hired by the electricity company to move them from St Joseph's Church, where they are picketing a substation to which the turbine must be connected. Midlands Electricity says it has a legal obligation to connect the wind farm.

The oldest person in the congregation at a carol service in the churchyard last night was former wartime air-gunner George Wilcox, 80, and the youngest was April Crossland, 18 months. Bernard Freeman, 70, said: "This is a beautiful village where I have lived all my life. I have seen these wind farms in Cornwall and they stand out like sore thumbs."

The turbine is expected to be erected this week by Enercon, a German company.

The National Trust is challenging the decision by an inspector from the Department of the Environment to allow the development without a public inquiry. The Countryside Commission has also voiced concerns.

Dale Vince, owner of the land and managing director of Western Windpower, said: "These people are a very small minority trying to impose their views on the rest of us."

Teacher defends warning to eight-year-olds over sex attacks

By TIM JONES

A TEACHER said in the High Court yesterday that he had been unfairly accused of serious professional misconduct after he told a class of eight-year-olds that talking to strangers could lead to their being indecently assaulted.

Martin Baxter, 60, is alleged to have upset some parents for remarks he made during the lesson

at Churchfield Junior School, South Woodford, two years ago. He is suing the London Borough of Redbridge for damages, including £15,800 in lost earnings, and a declaration that the written warning he received was in breach of his contract of employment.

The High Court was told that during the lesson Mr Baxter used highly inappropriate language and had fallen far short of the standards

expected when discussing a subject which demanded great sensitivity. Donald Broatch, for Mr Baxter, said the incident occurred after the teacher had been told by a pupil of a bicycle being stolen from a boy who had been approached by a stranger.

"He used this as an example to caution them of the dangers of speaking to strangers and referred to indecent assault as something

that could happen." Six parents, he said, had complained of the lesson but only four children had been interviewed and two of those had referred to words the teacher apparently used when warning pupils that strangers could touch their private parts.

Mr Broatch said that the headmaster, Tony Fegan, had disbelieved the teacher when he denied acting improperly and had convicted

him without giving him the opportunity properly to defend himself. The lawyer added that Mr Baxter had been warned of serious misconduct by the headmaster, whose action had been backed by a disciplinary hearing of the school governors. Mr Baxter, a teacher for 18 years, has not worked since the incident because, he says, his mental health had suffered.

Mr Baxter told the court that the

story of the bicycle had presented him with an opportunity to raise the question of sexual abuse. "It was a brief five minutes or so. I emphasised the dangers to the children and told them to go home and tell their parents. I do not believe I did anything wrong."

He said that he wished to return to work but that the trust between him and the head had been destroyed. The case continues.

Pharmacy group may run GP service

By JEREMY LAURANCE, HEALTH CORRESPONDENT

ONE of Britain's biggest pharmacies is considering teaming up with NHS trusts or GP practices to run family doctor services. Unichem wants to take advantage of the new freedoms introduced under

the Government's Primary Care Bill, which is expected to become law next year.

Under the Bill, commercial firms can apply to set up and run GP services but only if they have the backing of an NHS trust or family doctor. Unichem wants to set up one-stop health shops combining

GP services, minor surgery, chiropody and pharmacy.

The company has 450 chemists shops around the country and is bidding for the Lloyds Chemists chain. Unichem already has a dozen outlets in GP practices. Under the Bill, however, it could run the medical services, hire GPs charge

rent for the use of premises, in partnership with an NHS trust or GP practice.

The National Trust has set aside £6 million next year to fund pilot trials of new schemes. Boots said it had no plans to open GP surgeries.

Letters, page 19

Laureates back animal research

By NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

NOBEL prizewinners in medicine have resoundingly supported the need to continue using animals in research.

In a poll of the 71 winners of the prize for physiology and medicine still alive, none of the 39 who responded dissented from the proposition that "animal experiments have been vital to the discovery and development of many advances in physiology and medicine".

The poll was carried out by Seriously Ill for Medical Research, a charity that encourages research into serious medical conditions. All but one laureate agreed strongly that "a total and immediate ban on animal experiments would hamper much medical progress".

Dr Peter Doherty, one of this year's winners, said: "There is no alternative to the use of animals for analysing the complexity of immunity."

CORRECTIONS

□ Keswick School, Cumbria, is a state boarding school, not an independent school, as reported on November 23, and the fees for boarders are £3,990 a year, not £12,000. The headmaster is Mr M. Chapman. We apologise for the errors.

□ Group 4 provided security at the Labour conference last year and this (report, October 2) but was not responsible for accreditation. An incident with a pepper spray arose from a proper search procedure, not ineptitude by the company.

Nurse loses appeal over dismissal

A nurse sacked by Harrow School for slapping a colleague's face lost her claim of unfair dismissal. Marilyn Edey, 51, allegedly hit a senior nurse in a row over pupil blood tests. Mrs Edey told a London tribunal that the school had a vendetta against her and that the blow was accidental as she reached for a diary. Hugh Poree, the tribunal chairman, said that was not credible.

Mummy sale

The mummified head of a red-haired Inca girl was sold for £2,200 at Bonhams in London. Radiographic evidence showed she was 15 when she was chosen as a sacrifice to mountain gods in the Andes 1,500 years ago. The head was sold by an unnamed British university.

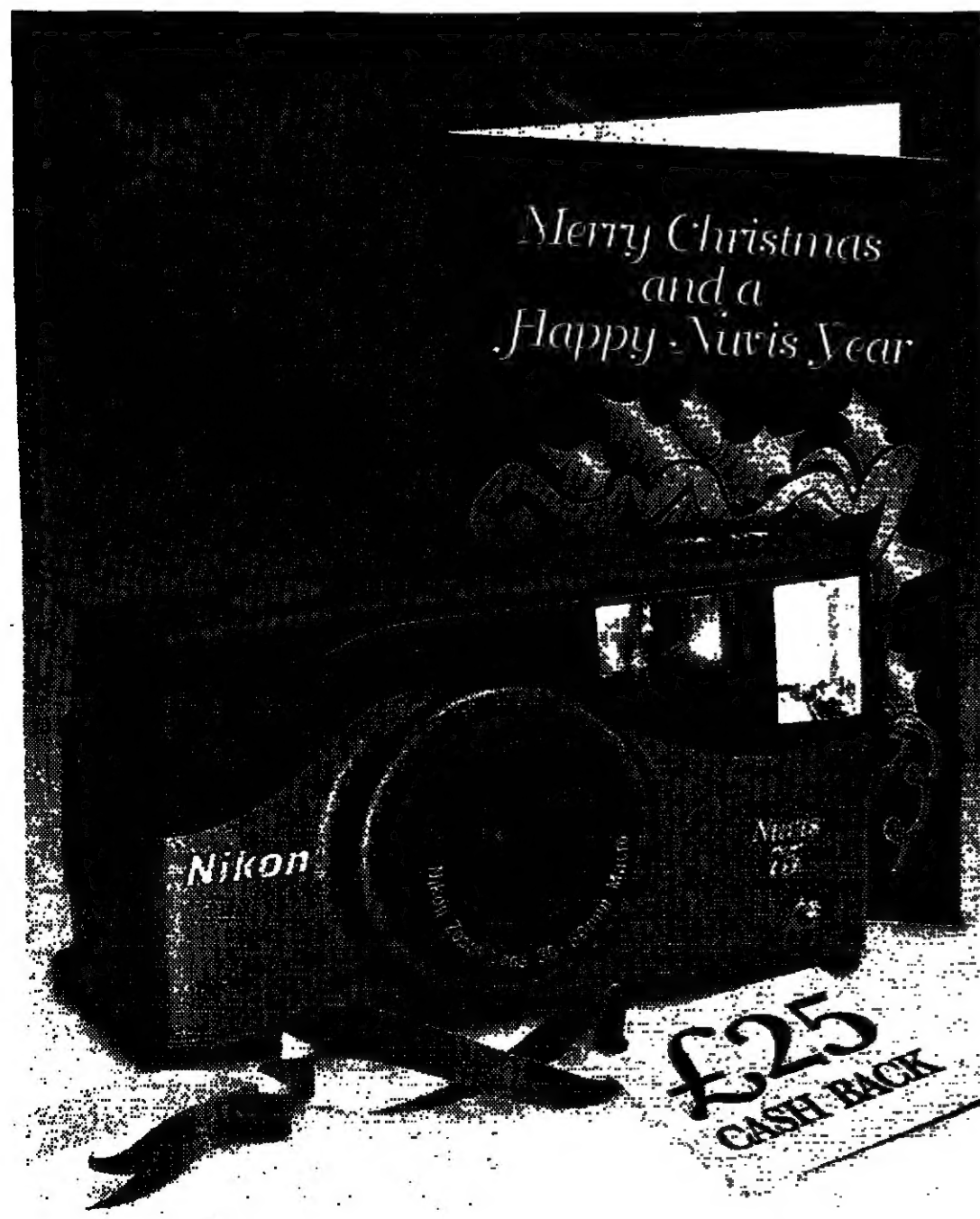
Bobbyland split

The television presenter Noel Edmonds is closing his Crinkley Bottom theme park after three years amid acrimony with his business partners. The site at Crick St Thomas wildlife park near Chard, Somerset, will still feature Mr Bobby, which is licensed from the BBC.

Sweet freedom

Three prisoners in the cells at Chorley Police Station, Lancashire, were forced to leave the building for 20 minutes along with 25 officers and staff when smoke detectors were activated by a woman police constable spraying on Estée Lauder's perfume Knowing.

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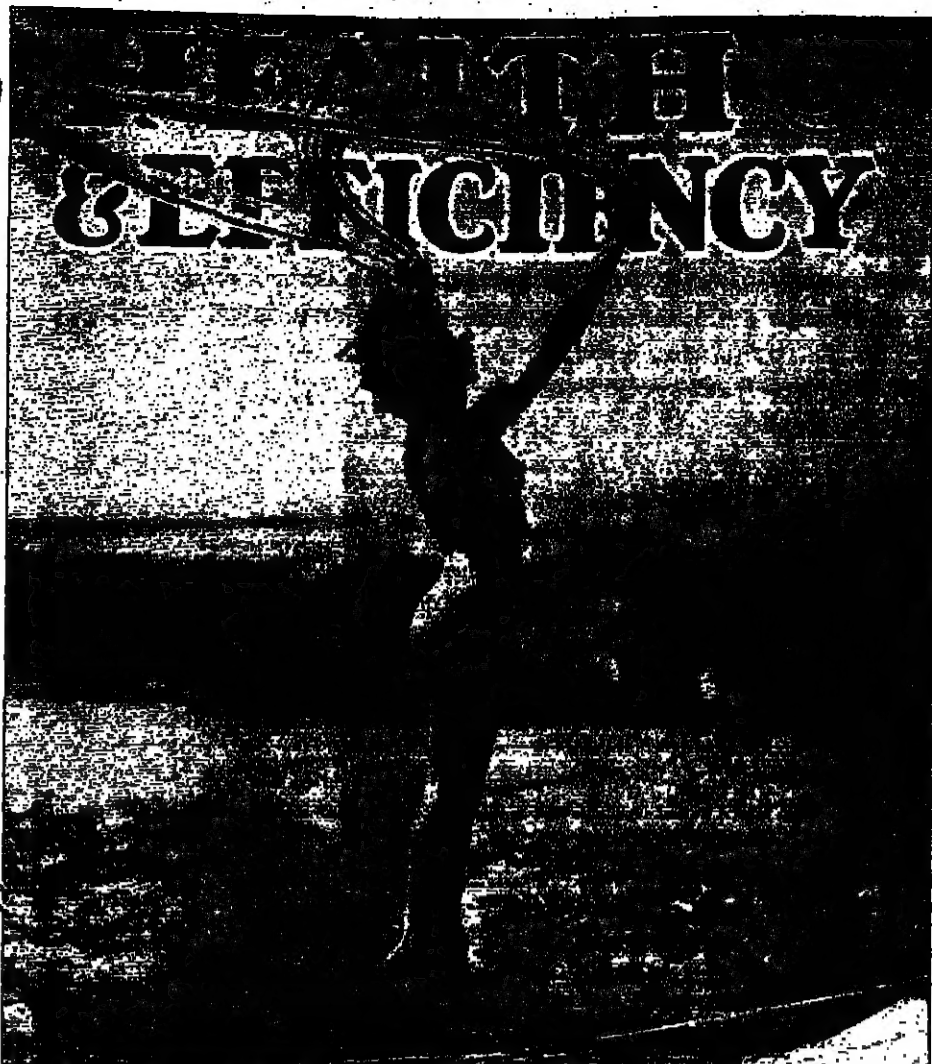
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Helping to lift the mysteries of the human form: a cover from September 1934

Nudity pioneer runs into trouble with its figures

By Robin Young

FINANCIAL crisis has struck another of Britain's historic treasures. Receivers are seeking a buyer and benefactor to save *Health & Efficiency* for the nation.

The nudist magazine introduced generations of curious schoolboys to artistic images of flesh laid bare. In the faraway age before Page Three models and television love scenes helped to make nudity almost unavoidable. Founded at the turn of the century, it still sells 55,000 copies a month but its proprietor, Peenhill Ltd, has been in financial difficulties.

The result is that a stock of naked flesh has landed in the charge of the administrative receivers Pannell Kerr Forster. In their corporate recovery department, Lindsey Moore said yesterday: "Health & Efficiency is still on the shelves and the normal December issue will be distributed within the next few days. We are intending to sell Peenhill as a going concern and we have had a lot of interest. We are very hopeful of a quick sale." The magazine



A Southampton reader featured in a "natural" pose

was originally launched to popularise the naturism movement and to deal with health education issues. For many years it was the only magazine — apart from *National Geographic* — which published nude photographs. In the 1950s its modest cover price helped it to remain a popular buy with schoolboys, despite the slow emergence of spicier competitors. It now sells at £2.25.

There has been consternation among genuine British naturists, perturbed by attempts to increase its appeal

with pictures of younger and more subtle women. The Central Council for British Naturism has its own official journal, *British Naturism*. Peenhill has a staff of four. Its director, Reginald Taylor, 78, took over *Health & Efficiency* in the late 1960s and blames the recent paedophile scandal in Belgium for giving family naturism a bad name.

Peenhill also publishes the smaller circulation German *Jung und Frei*, and the French *Jeunes et Naturels* — from abroad, as they include

pictures of naked children which would be illegal in Britain. "After the paedophile business in Belgium, the Midland Bank refused to renew our overdraft facility," Mr Taylor said. "It is very sad. All the magazines publish perfectly harmless pictures of healthy family nudism, designed to demystify the human body."

The offices of Peenhill were raided earlier this year by police who seized copies of magazines, some of which were alleged to include photographs of naked children under five years of age. Such pictures were staple fare in *HEF's* earlier, innocent days. An edition of 1934, priced at 6d (2½p), has a tiptoe beach belle waving a veil on the cover, and on an inside page a quartet of blonde tots, bottoms to camera. The following page has a picture called "Among the French Naturists" which shows a mixed group of four, all wearing swimming costumes. The magazine offered a prize of a guinea (£1.05) for the best "artistic study of the nude figure, male or female, in the outdoors" each month.



Two early models from London and Llanelli

Royal Opera to have summer stay at the Met

By Damian Whitworth

THE Royal Opera is to be given refuge at the Metropolitan Opera House in New York when building work at Covent Garden renders the company homeless next summer. This will be the first time that the Royal Opera, which rarely tours abroad because of the huge expense, will have visited the 4,000-seat citadel of American high culture.

The company, which with the Royal Ballet has been searching desperately for temporary accommodation, will begin its three-year exile with a run at the Met when the house closes in July for a £200 million redevelopment.

It is believed that the company's nine-year-old production of Wagner's *Lohengrin*, which returns to London in the spring with Dame Gwyneth Jones, will be chosen to mark the Royal Opera's debut in Manhattan, at the invitation of the Lincoln Centre Festival. The Wagner will be complemented by Hans Pfitzner's 1917 epic *Palestrina*, which will receive its first professional staging at Covent Garden next month. It runs to four and a half hours.

The cost of taking an orchestra and chorus abroad to stage such monumental works is likely to be in excess of £500,000 a week but much of the cost of this venture will be met by American backers.

The last time the Royal Opera, which had its fiftieth anniversary this year, went abroad was to Japan in 1992. In 1984 Plácido Domingo and Dame Gwyneth led the company at a festival in Los Angeles coinciding with the Olympics. Neither the Royal Opera nor the Met would comment on the venture last night but an announcement is

expected soon in New York. The company's plans for the duration of the three-year reconstruction of its Covent Garden home are still uncertain. It is hoped that it will be able to build a temporary theatre, to be shared with the Royal Ballet, on the South Bank by Tower Bridge. However, that would not be ready until 1998. Planned stays at the Barbican, the Savoy Theatre and the Shaftesbury Theatre would entail drastically reduced productions. It is understood that the stay in America might be followed by a visit to the Edinburgh Festival. The redeveloped Royal Opera House is scheduled to re-open as part of the millennium celebrations in 2000.

Aside from Dame Gwyneth's previous Wagnerian triumphs in the Big Apple, the Met has some experience of the British way of doing things. Sir Rudolf Bing, first artistic director of the Edinburgh Festival, was general manager there from 1950-72.

Cl A. £1 million production of *Swan Lake* with more than 120 dancers will be held at the Albert Hall next spring.

The English National Ballet production, playing to more than 50,000 people, is hiring fire eaters, jugglers, acrobats and at least 70 swans. The 12-night run, opening on May 29, is aimed specifically at the popular market but ballet fans will have few home-produced principals to cheer on. The ballet will be performed in the round without sets.

Swan Lake's six leading lights, led by Alina Astasheva, prima ballerina of the Kirov, were all born and trained abroad.

The Garden recalled, page 35

Order puts Gielgud in select company

By Alan Hamilton

THE Queen has honoured Sir John Gielgud, Britain's greatest and most enduring theatrical knight, with the Order of Merit, one of the most exclusive decorations in her personal gift.

Sir John, 92 and still open to offers of work provided they are not too strenuous, joins a select band limited to 24 holders at any one time. He fills the vacancy created by the death of Sir Frank Whittle, pioneer of the jet engine. Sir John said at his Buckinghamshire home yesterday that he was "very

surprised and very much honoured" by the award.

The OM is the highest honour the Queen can bestow for genuine achievement and is outranked in the Orders of Chivalry only by the Order of the Garter and its Scottish equivalent, the Thistle, which tend to be the preserve of the old aristocracy, foreign royalty and retired prime ministers.

It brings Sir John no money, rank or title, only a personal investiture at Buckingham Palace at a date to be announced, and a badge on a blue and crimson ribbon which he may wear at appropriate functions.

Current holders include Baroness Thatcher, President Mandela and Mother Teresa. The theatrical presence in the order is slender although it did include Laurence Olivier.

Founded by King Edward VII in 1902, the Order of Merit is given "to such persons as may have rendered exceptionally meritorious service in the Crown services, or towards the advancement of the arts, learning, literature and science."



Gielgud: very much honoured by award

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Vicar who left wife for curate to carry on

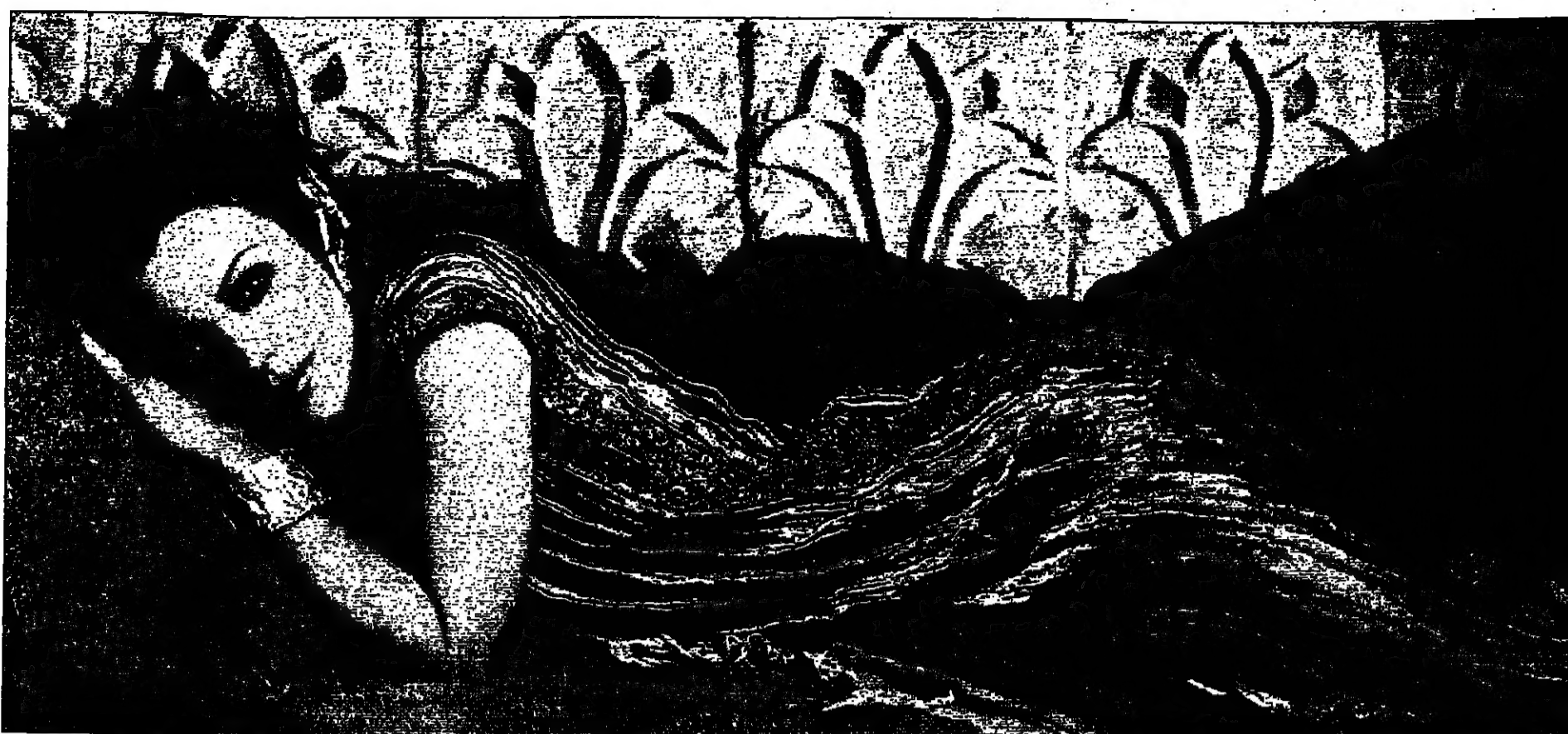
BY A STAFF REPORTER

A VICAR who upset parishioners by marrying his curate four months after divorcing his wife of 21 years is being allowed by his bishop to continue preaching and carrying out his pastoral duties.

The Rt Rev Michael Scott-Joynt, the Bishop of Winchester, acknowledged yesterday that the affair had caused "alienation, bitterness and hurt" but rejected pressure to convene a provincial tribunal with powers to sack the Rev Royston Such. Mr Such, 49, split the four-village parish centred on Ropley, Hampshire, in July when he divorced his wife, Elizabeth, by whom he has five children aged 8 to 22, and married Deacon Tania Riviere, 54. Her licence was revoked by the Church.

Some parishioners boycotted the church and one church lost its choir as a result but the bishop said that embarking on the legal process of ousting the vicar would lead to more bad feeling. "A legal inquiry which by its very nature is adversarial would be immensely destructive for all the parties involved. It would be costly and divisive and would only serve to exacerbate the tensions."

The bishop said he favoured a "pastoral solution". He said: "It is in the best interests of the Church and the parish to seek to work with Mr Such and his parishioners to discover fresh ways to go forward."



Elizabeth Hurley in the US television mini-series *Samson and Delilah*: the role may be seen as one of the great, if unintended, comic creations of film

Hurley stars in a flop of biblical proportions

**FROM QUENTIN LETTS
IN NEW YORK**

AMERICAN critics have heaped abuse on the latest acting effort of Elizabeth Hurley, who only last week praised the US media for its fairness. Her portrayal of Delilah in an American television mini-series has been described as excruciating.

Miss Hurley was not much helped in the Book of Judges potboiler. Her costume's headgear evoked Bernard Bresslaw's in *Carry On up the Khyber* and her accent

was less 11th-century BC Holy Land than late AD 20th-century Old Kent Road. In time, the role may be seen as one of the great, if unintended, comic creations of film. *The Bible: Samson and Delilah* will be shown in Britain on Sky 1, starting a week tomorrow.

Miss Hurley has spent most of the year working as a well-paid "face of the Nineties" for a cosmetics firm, so it was odd to see her thumping around a gaudy set as a Philistine courtier. But although *USA Today* recognised her only as "an anaemic Jacqueline Bisset", the faults are

ably lay with the production. Miss Hurley's co-stars, Dame Diana Rigg and Michael Gambon, trudged in and out of the action as if they were there simply out of

embarrassed curiosity to see how Cecil B. de Mille's 1949 epic could be rebashed. Cameras shook, the dialogue moved like glue. The late Mr de Mille's film was suddenly made to look rather arty.

Aside such nonsense, Miss Hurley and other British stars have been on a roll in the United States this year. Gambon, when not horsing around on *Old Testament*

filmsets, has scored a major success on Broadway with David Hare's *Skylight* and his British co-star Lia Williams suddenly has a bright future in American drama.

Elaine Paige has astonished crowds with her lead role in *Sunset Boulevard* and the recent run of the Royal Shakespeare Company's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* was regarded as one of the best shows to visit New York for many a moon.

tacks: He plays himself and is attacked by Martians when he starts to sing. Kristin Scott-Thomas is being discussed as a possible Oscar-winner for her role in *The English Patient*.

Police fail to find road rage witnesses

BY LIN JENKINS

POLICE investigating the murder of Lee Harvey have stopped hundreds of motorists along the route of the car chase described by his girlfriend but have failed to find any witnesses.

More than 120 of the 650 drivers questioned by police at eight roadblocks on Sunday night had been along the same roads the previous weekend when Mr Harvey was killed. None recalled seeing his white Ford Escort RS2000 Turbo in a chase with a Ford Sierra.

Yesterday Tracie Andrews, 27, Mr Harvey's fiancée, remained under arrest in connection with the killing in an unidentified West Midlands hospital where she is being treated, apparently having taken a drug overdose. Doctors treating her have told detectives that it might be some days before she is well

Miss Andrews, a former model and barmaid who has a five-year-old daughter from a previous relationship, was arrested on Saturday at the flat she shared with Mr Harvey, 25, in Alvechurch, Hereford and Worcester.

Police continued the search for a "bladed instrument" in the hedgerow near where Mr. Harvey died in Alvedchurch. He was stabbed at least 15 times in the head, neck and body. Miss Andrews said that he had been attacked by a passenger in a car that had chased them for three miles.

Japanese cities top the bill for costly living

BY ROBIN YOUNG

IF YOU want to save on the Christmas shopping, head for Bombay or, if you are loath to leave the European Union, Lisbon. These emerge as bargain basements in the latest comparison of worldwide living costs compiled by the Economist Intelligence Unit.

Though principally intended for roving businessmen, the survey is also a useful price guide for shoppers with cosmopolitan tastes. Bombay props up the table at 120th while Tokyo and the Osaka-Kobe conurbation are the world's most expensive cities.

The survey reveals some startling comparisons. A kilogram of steak, costing the equivalent of £3 in Budapest is over £11 in Tokyo. Chicken is seven times as expensive in Japan as Hungary, and a £740 dress in Tokyo is only £117.50 in Budapest.

Thanks to a weakening yen, the Japanese league leaders

- 1... Tokyo
- 2... Osaka-Kobe
- 3... Oslo, Zurich
- 5... Geneva
- 6... Libreville, Paris
- 8... Copenhagen, Vienna, Stockholm

Paris, in sixth place, can console themselves that the city is really only as expensive as Libreville, capital of Gabon.

Dublin is rated equal with New York. Shanghai and Sydney in thirty-second place. Many of the European cities offering savings over London are in the east: Warsaw is 99th, Prague 102nd, Belgrade 106th, Bucharest 108th. Cheapest European city is Budapest, placed 114th.

There is, though, a rank outsider that may tempt bargain hunters with Air Miles to blow. Tripoli is reckoned to be even cheaper than Bombay but Jane Gardiner of the Economist Intelligence Unit admits: "Our people could not carry out the survey in Tripoli because a government clampdown on blackmarket activity has closed most of the shops and led to a country-wide

"On the other hand, shopkeepers' are not putting prices up, for fear of what might happen to them if they do."

- 1... Tokyo
- 2... Osaka-Kobe
- 3... Oslo, Zurich
- 5... Geneva
- 6... Libreville, Paris
- 8... Copenhagen, Vienna, Stockholm

Captain is accused of crew deaths

The skipper of a square-rigged sailing ship has pleaded not guilty to the manslaughter of three crew lost when the vessel was wrecked off north Cornwall last year. Mark Litchfield, 55, of Boxley, Kent, also pleaded not guilty at Truro Crown Court to two charges of conduct endangering a ship, the 137-year-old *Maria Asumpta*. The trial will be at a date and venue to be fixed.

Diphtheria alert

A 20-year-old woman is being treated for suspected diphtheria at a hospital in Dundee. Bacterium were found in her throat during a routine investigation and tests are being carried out to determine whether they are of the toxin-producing type that can cause the disease.

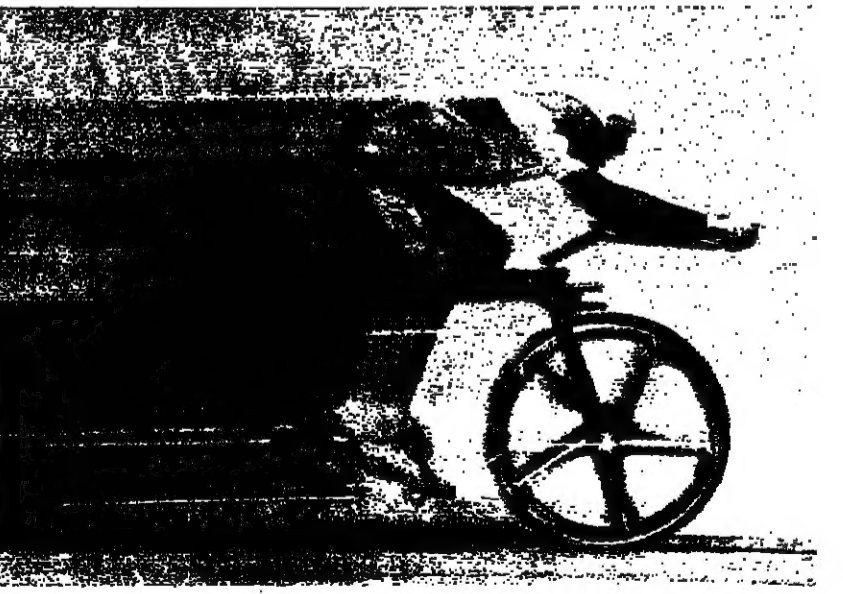
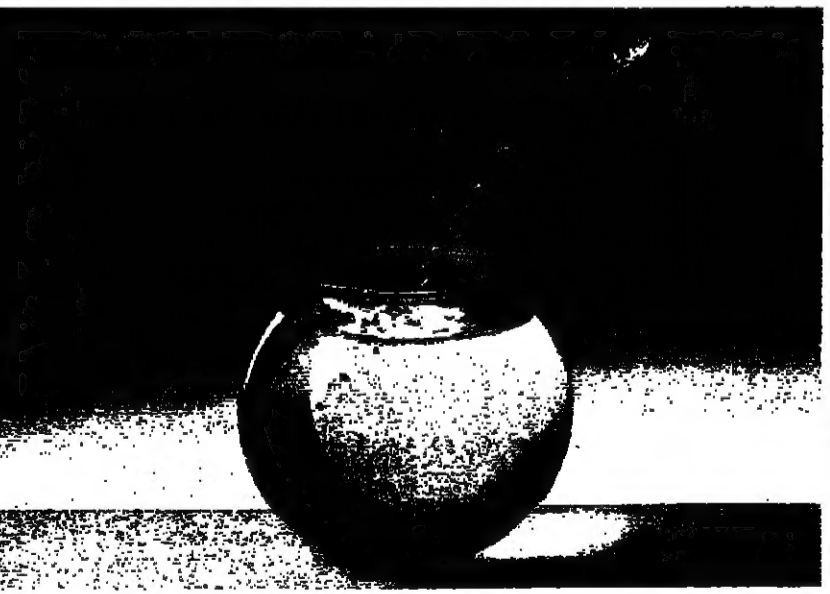
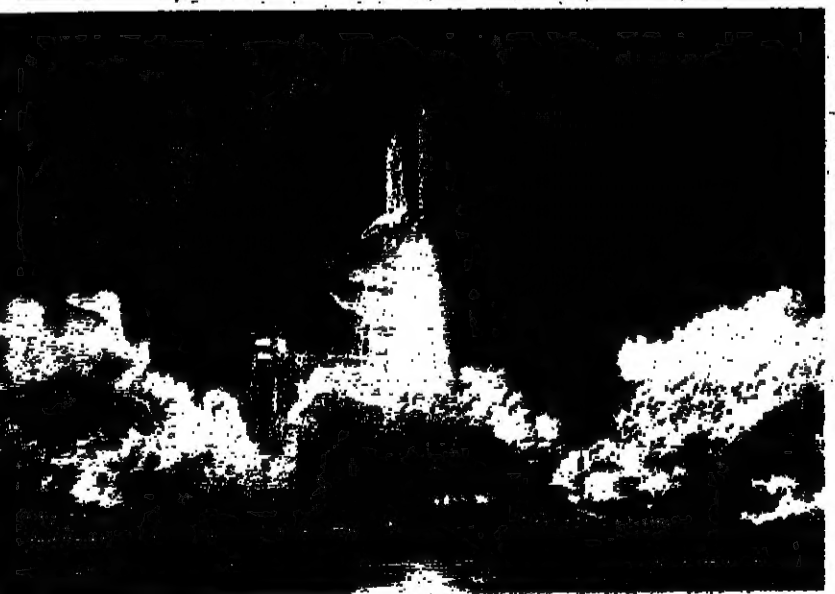
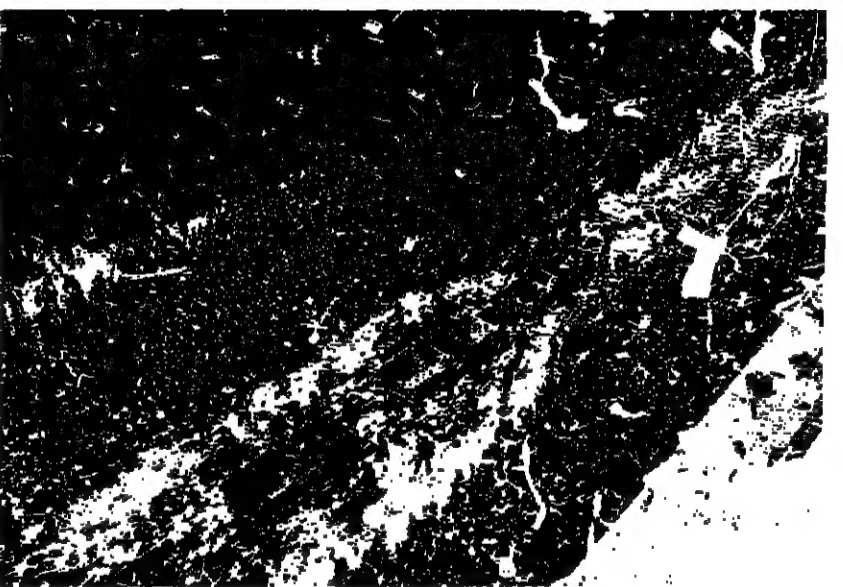
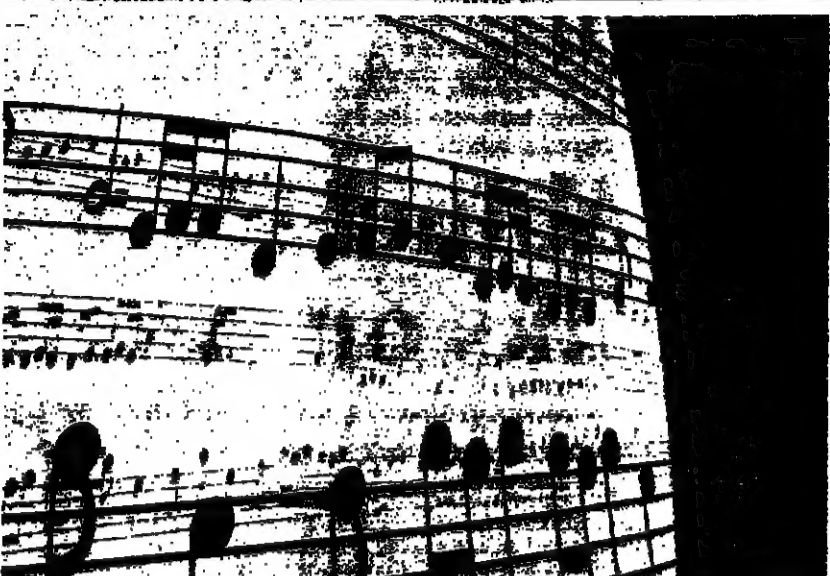
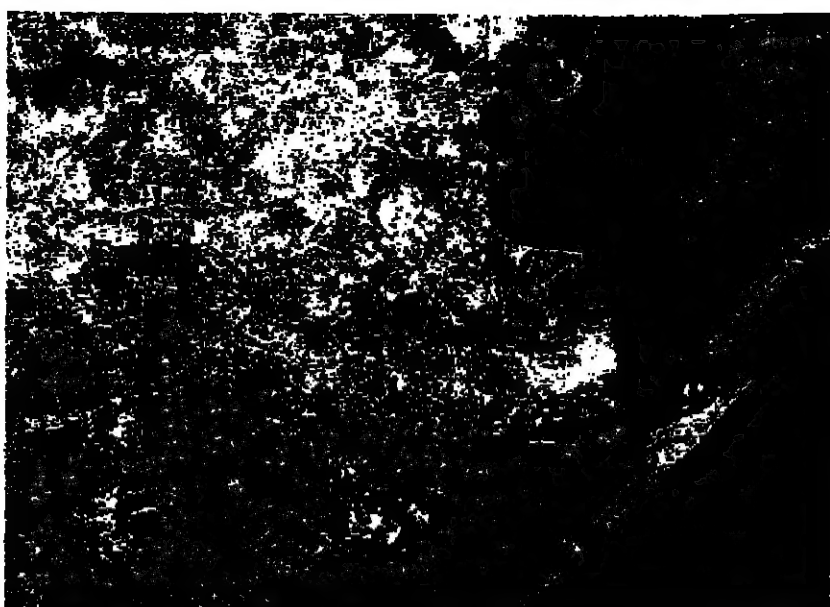
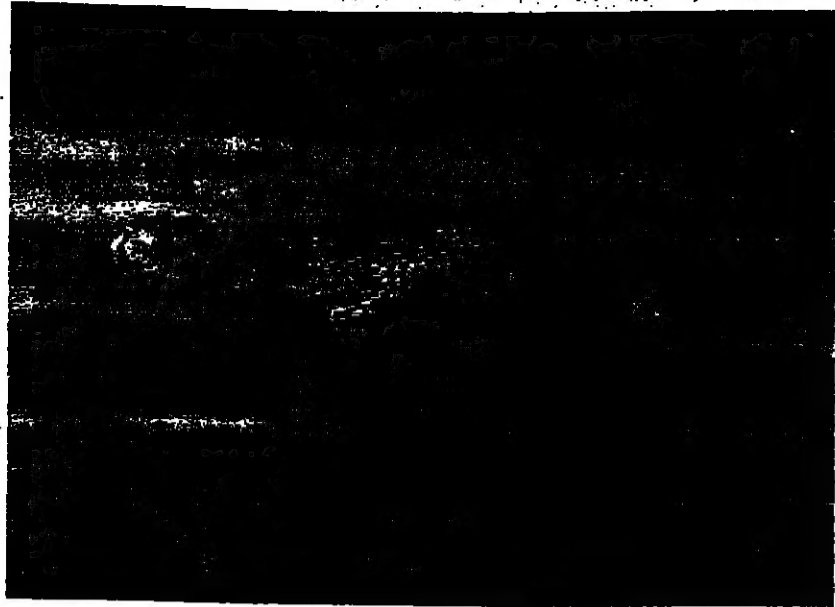
Jockey safe

Ray Cochrane, the jockey who was the subject of a missing persons hunt after he disappeared three weeks ago, is planning to return home. The 39-year-old former Derby winner left his home in Swaffham Prior, Cambridgeshire, after a row with his wife Anne.

Star bargains

The actress Goldie Hawn is to open the Harrods sale on January 8. Mohamed Al Fayed, the store's owner, will donate a "substantial" cheque to the charity of her choice. Last January the actor Gerard Depardieu performed the task at the Knightsbridge store.

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Forsyth rejects call for public inquiry into food poisoning

BY SHIRLEY ENGLISH

MICHAEL FORSYTH, the Scottish Secretary, gave a robust defence of the Government's handling of the food poisoning outbreak yesterday, as the *E. coli* O157 bacterium claimed its tenth victim.

Addressing MPs at the Scottish Grand Committee in Hamilton, South Lanarkshire, Mr Forsyth announced "with sadness" the latest death. The elderly woman, from Bonnybridge, near Falkirk, died on Sunday evening in Stobhill Hospital, Glasgow.

A total of 390 people have reported symptoms and tests have confirmed that 209 have been infected with the bacterium. Forty-nine are in hospital and 25, including six children, are seriously ill.

During a heated debate, Mr Forsyth rejected opposition calls for a public inquiry. He also attempted to end persistent claims that the Scottish Office was responsible for suppressing for five days the

list of affected outlets supplied by the butcher John M. Barr & Son. Mr Forsyth released correspondence with North Lanarkshire council which he said showed that the council had taken the decision to keep the list confidential. The letters also showed that the Scottish Office had "urgently" sought information, but "with little success".

Mr Forsyth said: "The procedures followed reflect a long-established view that responsibility should lie with the local authority environmental health department." He had reserve powers to take charge, but it had not been suggested that their use was appropriate.

He added that the outbreak would be fully explored by the fatal accident inquiry, the police investigation and the expert inquiry led by Professor Hugh Pennington. The inquiry would be "entitled to explore and determine the reasonable precautions if any,

whereby the deaths might have been avoided; the defects, if any, of any system of working which contributed to the deaths; and any other factors which are relevant".

The sheriff would have powers to call ministers and order documents to be released. Families affected would have the right to give evidence. It could also examine whether government guidelines needed altering.

George Robertson, Shadow Scottish Secretary, and MP for Hamilton, said a full public inquiry was needed. He asked why the Scottish Office Health Minister was not informed about concerns until three days after the outbreak and why the Scottish Office did not join the outbreak control team until a day after that. "Did he not read a newspaper, or listen to broadcasts? In this part of the world there is still confusion and worry and anxiety, and real

and genuine anger, about how this infection came about. "The Secretary of State may be able to blame everybody else. But heaping all responsibility on local agencies when his department was involved right from the beginning is undignified and improper."

Jeremy Bray, Labour MP for Motherwell South, which includes Wishaw, the town where the butcher believed to be the sole source of the outbreak is based, said: "The important issues are not who said what to who, at what

time. There are underlying problems with food hygiene." John Reid, Labour MP for Motherwell North, said: "There is a widespread feeling that under the government guidelines, commercial interests have been placed above the public interest and right to information."

Dennis Canavan, Labour MP for Falkirk West, said: "Growing public concern demands the highest form of public judicial inquiry." Bill Walker, Conservative MP for Tayside North, criticised opposition "misinformation" for heightening fears. He said three members of his family had been ill with food poisoning over the past two weeks. "People are still very ill and it is unwise to spread stories with little basis in fact... I believe a fatal accident inquiry, with all the powers it has, will produce the answers."

Alex Salmond, leader of the Scottish National Party, asked Mr Forsyth to confirm that Scotland had the highest incidence of *E. coli* food poison-

ing. He said: "It is extraordinary that (despite this) the total research funding amounts to £500,000. Can I have an assurance that in future, after this outbreak, these teams [of researchers] will be given the research funding which is required to eliminate this deadly bacterium from the food chain?"

Mr Forsyth said £2 million was being spent on research, with 18 projects nationally and five in Scotland.

Leading article, page 19

More beef goes on Britain's plates

More beef goes on Britain's plates

BY MICHAEL HORNSEY

EATING beef is almost back to the level it held six months before a possible link was made between BSE and Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease in humans.

During the third quarter of the year, household beef consumption was 101 grams (3.53 oz) per person per week, 3 per cent down on the same period of 1995, according to the Ministry of Agriculture.

Between the first and second quarters, consumption plunged by 23 per cent from 111 to 85 grams per person per week. This followed the Government's announcement on March 20 that eating beef infected with BSE was the most likely cause of a new strain of CJD in humans.

Beef-eating is still 23 per cent lower than in 1994. The long-term decline is attributed in part to fears of BSE but also to the cheapness of rival meats such as poultry.

Why cats and cattle create a deadly duo



No toddler's farmyard picture book is complete without a scene showing a cat in the dairy among the cows. Cows and cats look so gentle, pretty and idyllic, but in real life this particular combination is becoming increasingly deadly. Cattle are a favourite host for the multidrug-resistant organism salmonella DT104, and they are probably infected initially by the farmyard cat, which spreads the bacterium from one farm to the next.

This bacterium is becoming a growing cause of concern in both veterinary and human medicine, and since it is now usually antibiotic resistant it is increasingly likely to be associated with fatalities.

Salmonella DT104, like other salmonella infections, produces symptoms ranging from the symptomless carrier state to collapse. Characteristically the patient develops abdominal pain, diarrhoea, nausea and vomiting between 12 and 48 hours after food contaminated with salmonella has been eaten. In most cases this clears spontaneously within five days. However, even uncomplicated salmonella infection can be dangerous in young children, the aged and in those with chronic disease or who are immunocompromised.

In more serious cases the infected patient has a temperature, is laid low and there may be evidence of septicaemia, with the infection involving other organs. There is a suggestion, as yet unproven,

that infection with salmonella DT104 is more likely than some other types of salmonella to give rise to serious gastroenteritis and other complications. In any patient, supportive therapy, with rehydration and treatment for vomiting and diarrhoea, is the initial treatment.

Although there is argument about when antibiotics should be given, the standard opinion is that these should be reserved for cases in which a patient is obviously seriously ill, and always if there is evidence of septicaemia.

The danger of salmonella DT104 to the community is the ease at which it is spreading, and its ability to develop resistance to all common antibiotics. Ten years ago there was only one case in England and Wales in which the organism was multidrug resistant, and 262 in which it was sensitive to antibiotics. Last year there were only 109 cases recorded in which salmonella DT104 was sensitive to antibiotics and 3,502 in which it was resistant to all of the commonly prescribed drugs. This year shows every sign of being as bad as, if not worse than, 1995.

The case with multi-drug resistant salmonella DT104 is spread emphasises the need for strict precautions in storing and preparing food, as well as in personal hygiene.

DR THOMAS STUTTAFFORD

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Asthma sufferers 'exploited by unfair claims'

By JEREMY LAURANCE
HEALTH CORRESPONDENT

BRITAIN'S three million asthma sufferers are being persuaded by misleading and unfair claims to buy devices of doubtful value, according to *Health Watch*, published by the Consumers' Association.

An investigation by the magazine found that some companies are exploiting the fears of people with asthma. Advertisements for some devices, ranging from powerful vacuum cleaners to air filters, are aimed at parents of children with the condition.

The National Asthma Campaign, which assisted the investigation, said manufacturers were "cynically cashing in" on the desire for a cure.

Advertisements for nine different products were assessed by experts and shown to 2,000 people, who were questioned about them. An advertisement for Honeywell air filters, which are claimed to get rid of pet allergens, shows a woman cuddling a cat. The expert panel condemned it as misleading because an air cleaner would work only if the pet was outside the room.

Another advertisement for a cleaner called Medivac describes it as a "home asthma treatment". The panel said it might reduce house dust mites but the claim that it would improve control of asthma was not substantiated.

Melinda Latta, chief executive of the National Asthma Campaign, said: "When you or your child are living with asthma, symptoms every day... such advertisements can be very persuasive. As this report shows many of them are cynically cashing in on the natural desire for a cure."

Companies criticised attacked *Health Watch* for ignoring information sent to the magazine. A Honeywell spokesman said it was untrue its air filters would not work when a pet was in the room.

Colin Taylor, of Medivac, said it was well known that a protein in the droppings of dust mites triggered asthma in many people. He said he had cleared the Medivac device advertisement with an asthma specialist before publication.



How Antoine Grumbach's design would look, with its bridge suspended from cables slung from 130-metre twin towers, featuring three tiers of "gardens in the sky"

Daring version of inhabited Thames bridge captures public imagination

By MARCUS BINNEY

THE competition to span the Thames has never been stronger. Yesterday the Royal Academy announced that the public had voted 3-1 in favour of a controversial 35-storey tower in its competition for an inhabited bridge to be built across the Thames opposite the London Weekend Television tower.

Today the City Corporation will announce the winner of another competition: London's first purely pedestrian bridge across the Thames linking St Paul's Cathedral with the Tate Gallery of Modern Art being installed in Bankside power station.

The Royal Academy's announcement is likely to trigger one of the fiercest planning battles in London since the controversy over the

"Green Giant" on the south bank of the river at Vauxhall.

Though the idea of an inhabited bridge sounds benign, a nostalgic echo of the houses on Old London Bridge, the tower designed by the French architect Antoine Grumbach would dominate the majestic view of the dome of St Paul's from Waterloo Bridge.

It would also interrupt the fine run of plane trees along the Embankment and cast a giant shadow over the gardens of the Inner Temple; it is likely to be fiercely resisted by the lawyers who occupy the Temple.

In the summer the Royal Academy's assessors chose joint winners of the inhabited bridge competition. M Grumbach's and a scheme by Zaha



Grumbach, who plans a modern successor to the inhabited Old London Bridge

Hadid, designer of the rejected controversial Cardiff Opera House.

John Gummer, one of the assessors, has come out strongly in favour of the proposal. This is in marked contrast to the usual quasi-judicial stance taken by envi-



ronment ministers over proposals that they may have to adjudicate on after a public inquiry.

M Grumbach's eye-catching scheme consists of twin 130-metre high towers built out into the river on the northern side, with three tiers

of gardens in the sky, which are an echo of those in the Commerzbank now rising in Frankfurt, designed by Sir Norman Foster. The wide bridge suspended by cables from the tower is more like a seaside pier than a conventional bridge, with pavement

cafes and kiosks in glass boxes. At the south end is a large glass-walled tropical palm house built out on stilts into the river with walks through the tree tops. Quite apart from the size of M Grumbach's tower, its fishnet stocking-style cladding is likely to prove controversial. The bridge would be spectacular at night when lights within would cast brilliant reflections on a dark stretch of river.

The Royal Academy emphasises that its scheme does not depend on public money. "We are talking to developers with a view to choosing one to take the proposal forward," a spokesman said. The Port of London Authority, whose permission will be needed to build across the river, is said to be in favour of the proposal.

Rescue crews free driver soaked in petrol under lorry

By PAUL WILKINSON

A DRIVER escaped with minor injuries after lying soaked in petrol in the wreck of his car for three hours as an overturned lorry threatened to crush him. Anthony Willis was able to walk to an ambulance unaided after rescue crews used special equipment that created no sparks to cut

him from his Peugeot 405 beside the A1 in North Yorkshire.

Mr Willis, 51, a shopowner from Houghton-le-Spring, Sunderland, suffered minor petrol burns and grazed knuckles. "All I knew was that I was being bounced around like a ping pong ball. I wasn't hurt but I was trapped with my legs crossed and I started to suffer from cramp,"

he said. A North Yorkshire Police spokesman said: "When we got to the accident scene it looked awful. The car was upside down and the lorry was on its side on top of it." Police are still investigating the cause of the crash at Londonderry, involving a Turkish-owned lorry carrying 19 diesel engines, whose driver was unhurt. A fire service spokesman

said: "It was a very tricky situation with risks from fire and the engines, which weighed around a tonne each. There was a double danger for the car driver. He was soaked in petrol from his own vehicle and if the lorry had slipped any further, he could have been crushed by one of the diesel engines on the lorry."

First the rescuers had to secure the

lorry to make sure it did not slip further, then unload its cargo. Next a crane was manoeuvred into position to lift it away. Paramedics kept up a stream of conversation with Mr Willis, who was conscious but was not told of the lorry's position.

The police spokesman added: "He was wearing a seat belt and that almost certainly saved his life."

The Environment Agency said that recent rain had helped to recharge many reservoirs and rivers but that south-east areas that relied on underground supplies still needed good winter rainfall to head off difficulties next year.

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PEOPLES PHONE

One in two doctors disenchanted by reforms, says survey

By IAN MURRAY
COMMUNITY CORRESPONDENT

GPs HAVE become so disillusioned by the National Health Service that a quarter of them would not do the job if they could start their careers again and a half admit to being disenchanted with reforms in the service. Only one in five is now working as a family doctor in the traditional set-up.

The figures are based on interviews with 100 GPs and questionnaires sent to a further 800. The study, for the Economic and Social Research Council, found that reforms had led to a reduction in efficiency and a growth of entrepreneurial behaviour among some doctors, but about half had a negative view of recent NHS changes and felt their activities were being increasingly constrained.

There were considerable variations in the extent to which doctors had taken the opportunities to innovate. Three quarters of practices now offer physiotherapy and nine out of ten carry out minor surgery. Only one in three, however, had introduced a computerised appointment system or set up consultant-led clinics.

Fundholding practices were not always found to be the most enterprising, with some doctors saying they had joined reluctantly under pressure from health authorities or neighbouring practices. Nevertheless, the study found that just over a third of fundholders and one in

five of the non-fundholders were true entrepreneurs, with a positive view of the reforms. The findings are among a series of surveys about the welfare state published today by the council. Another found that all social classes, including those sending their children to private schools, wanted more spent on state education even if it meant higher taxes.

Self-interest was not the main driving force behind the desire for extra funds. While just over a half thought their own household would benefit from more education spending, almost three quarters believed it would be in the interest of the nation as a whole.

A survey of housing need found that nine out of ten homeowners wanted more money spent on council housing. The report says this reflects "a deep-seated pessimism about the future of the housing market and a feeling that the Government has failed to deliver the promised security and prosperity of a home-owning democracy".

Tests expose flaws in new guidance system for planes

By HARVEY ELLIOTT, AIR CORRESPONDENT

A NEW air navigation system designed to allow commercial airliners to fly with pinpoint accuracy anywhere in the world could be seriously flawed, leading to potential dangers. Research carried out by the Civil Aviation Authority has revealed navigational errors in nearly 4 per cent of flights using the satellite-linked technology.

Twenty-eight malfunctions were reported on a British Airways Boeing 747 while it was under test. Each fault lasted for an average of 81 minutes, during which time the aircraft would have travelled more than 600 miles without proper guidance had it been relying on the equipment alone.

Such errors are considered unacceptable by the CAA, which is urging American safety authorities to slow down the introduction of the equipment until it is proved to be completely reliable. The equipment, part of the Future Air Navigation System (FANS), is a more complex version of the Global Positioning System (GPS) already used by yachtsmen and fishermen. It would be particularly useful in parts of Africa, where a lack of proper air traffic control has been severely criticised by international airline pilots.

Airlines are gradually installing instruments capable of picking up signals from up to 25 American and Russian satellites orbiting the earth. Computers then calculate where the aircraft is to within a few feet, enabling long-distance flights to be made accurately over water and parts of the world where there is no ground radar cover.

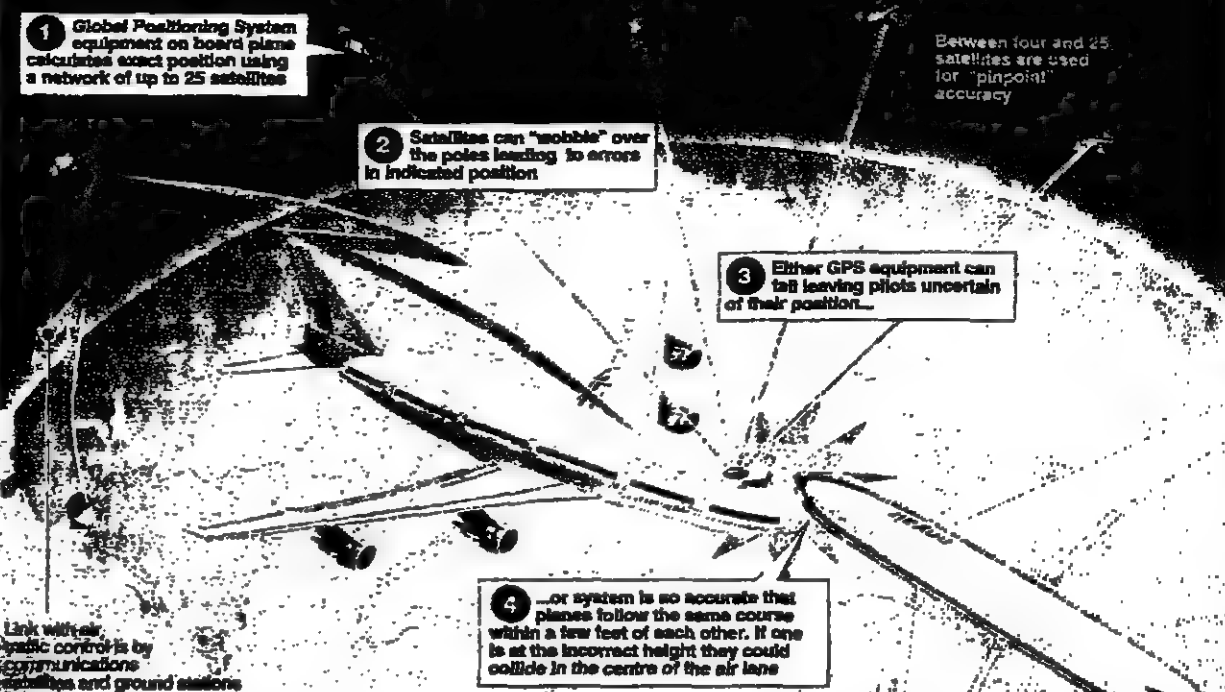
But the CAA says that in nearly 35,000 tests carried out on aircraft fitted with the equipment, they recorded 759 "outages" — when the equipment was not functioning at all — with the on-board avionics. A further 487 navigational errors were not picked up by the aircraft's own computer.

Under existing plans, the new system, also known as GPS, would be used in tandem with existing inertial navigation or radar-based systems by 2002 and then be the only system in use anywhere in the world by 2010. The cost of fitting every aircraft with the equipment is likely to be at least £15 billion plus £350 million a year to maintain the satellites.

Although many airlines have balked at the initial cost, they have been happy to press ahead because the new system seemed so reliable, opening up the opportunity for more aircraft to be packed into the increasingly busy air lanes and huge amounts of fuel to be saved by flying precise tracks.

However, the new research, which appears to indicate that both the on-board equipment is not reliable and the satellites

THE DANGERS IN SATELLITE NAVIGATION SYSTEMS



sway out of orbit near the poles and so provide false information to the aircraft, is bound to cause alarm. Pilots are also concerned that when the system is working properly it can be too accurate. It would automatically keep each aircraft exactly on the centre line of an airway, raising fears that should two

be approaching each other, there would be a high risk of a mid-air collision if either of them was at the wrong height. "Airline pilots spend hours exactly in the centre of their nine-mile wide airways, guaranteeing only 1,000-2,000 ft separation from opposite-direction traffic," two pilots write in a letter to the magazine *Flight International*.

"A mistake during an altitude change may cause disaster." They want computers to be off-set to the right of the aircraft's track, guaranteeing at least two miles separation while enabling the aircraft to remain in the airway.

Work on testing the GPS equipment will continue with both the CAA and the Federal Aviation Administration in Washington in an attempt to resolve the problems, but there will also be appeals for a slow-down in the rush to install the new satellite-based system or at least to ensure that it is used in conjunction with rather than in place of existing procedures.

Asian, 21, loses race murder appeal

By A STAFF REPORTER

A YOUNG Asian man detained for life for the racially motivated gang murder of a schoolboy lost his appeal against conviction yesterday. Badrul Miah, 21, was one of a ten-strong Bangladeshi gang that roamed through King's Cross, north London, bent on attacking any white boy who got in their way. Richard Everitt, 15, who weighed 14 stone, was unable to run away fast enough. He was stabbed in the back so hard that the blade went in up to the hilt.

Miah, of Euston, north London, did not wield the knife but was convicted on the basis of "joint enterprise" with others. His lawyers argued that the judge at his Old Bailey trial failed properly to direct the jury on the evidence and that the drafting of the indictment against him prejudiced his defence.

The Court of Appeal rejected the claims but said a legal point of general importance could form the basis of a fresh appeal to the House of Lords. The judges said the question was whether, for a conviction of "joint enterprise" murder, it was necessary to show that a secondary party like Miah intended to kill, or whether it was enough to prove that he realised that the prime mover might kill or cause serious bodily harm. Lord Justice Kennedy, Mr Justice Johnson and Mr Justice Timothy Walker also dismissed an appeal by Showkat Akbar, 20, against his conviction and three-year youth custody sentence for violent disorder during the rampage.

Rare dung causes a stink with Customs

By PAUL WALKERSON

A STUDENT who hoped to import a box of rhino dung for research at Hull University has fallen foul of Customs rules. Officials have told Vicky Myers that as the product of an endangered species, the dung is banned and she must apply for a licence.

Miss Myers, 23, needs the sample for research towards her Master of Science degree. She has been working with game wardens in southern Africa on a project to introduce the white rhino into Namibia and analysis of the droppings will give conservationists a better picture of its dietary needs.

John Dunsday, a Hull University spokesman, said Miss Myers wanted to analyse the samples to see if the rhinos had a preference for specific grasses, which would help to determine the best habitats.

The work, he said, had a serious ecological purpose. "She was hoping to do the analysis in Hull. We have the facilities here and it would be better than scouring around Africa for somewhere to do it."

"She needs less than a kilogramme but it qualifies as a scientific sample, which complicates things further. She was hoping to return with the dung last month but the licence hadn't been cleared. Now we hope she will be able to bring it back when she finishes over there in April."

Ho, ho, ho, time to draw a laugh and win £1,500

By JOE JOSEPH

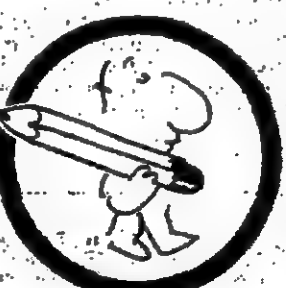
YOU may have missed the last posting day for your Christmas card to reach Aunt Matilda in Queensland on time, but you still have three weeks to enter your work for the Mel Calman Awards and become Young Cartoonist of the Year.

The annual competition was launched last year in memory of Mel Calman, whose mischievous, often moving pocket cartoons added a particular spice to the entertaining news on the front page of *The Times* for nearly 50 years.

This year, the judges are looking for a pocket cartoon — the single-column joke for which Calman was renowned — on a topical news story.

Aspiring young cartoonists must be British nationals and under 30 years of age on December 31, the closing date for submissions.

Sponsored by *The Times* and the British Cartoonists' Association, the competition is hoping to amuse out unknowns who can follow in the footsteps of masters such as Calman and Mark Boxer, and join today's leading lights, including Maif of *The Daily Telegraph*, Pugh, Calman's successor on *The Times*, Peter Brookes of *The Times*, and *The Guardian's* Steve Bell. Brookes and Bell are among the judges, who



also include the cartoonist Pugh, Calman's daughter, Clare. The winner receives £1,500. The two runners-up will receive £500 each and there will be a special category for those under 18, also with a £500 prize. Joining this year's

judging panel will be last year's winner, Jonathan Cusick, 17, from Tarnworth, Staffordshire, whose caricature of BBC2's *Food and Drink* team was best of the large entry.

Since winning, Cusick has been approached about various commissions, including painting a caricature of the Bishop of Birmingham and doing a mural for an indoor ski-slope in Tarnworth. He is currently studying for a degree in visual communications at the University of Central England in Birmingham.

There are two categories for entrants: under 30 and under 18. Cartoonists already working for a national newspaper may not enter.

Entrants may submit up to two pocket cartoons on paper, board or card, up to A4 in size, and drawn in ink or pencil, in black and white. No collages.

Do not sign the work on the front. Entries — previously unpublished, and unframed — should be marked with the applicant's name, date of birth, address and telephone number on the back, and sent to The Mel Calman Awards 1996, Ashentree Court, London EC8E 5NG. Copyright remains with the cartoonist but originals will not be returned, so entrants should photocopy their work before posting.

The dead duck that started a flap

By A STAFF REPORTER

IT WAS a pretty sight on a spring day as three mallards wandered across Bluebell Road, but it was not quite pretty enough to stop all the traffic. That was how Richard Mackley found himself on trial yesterday for intentionally running over a duck.

Norwich magistrates were told that the birds from a city lake crossed in front of the 22-year-old motorist as he drove his parents' Volvo in May.

Cars from the opposite direction had stopped but he fatally struck the first duck. The second was injured after walking under a wheel. The third flew away.

Mr Mackley, a former member of a young ornithologists club, was cleared after saying that he had slowed down and thought the ducks would fly away. Ken Ottaway, the magistrate, said it may have been reckless, but he was not satisfied that the driver intended to kill the bird.

The RSPCA prosecution was brought under the Wildlife and Countryside Act. The maximum fine is £1,000.

both the CAA and the Federal Aviation Administration in Washington in an attempt to resolve the problems, but there will also be appeals for a slow-down in the rush to install the new satellite-based system or at least to ensure that it is used in conjunction with rather than in place of existing procedures.

Neighbours tell French to polish up their embassy

By IAN MURRAY

THIS French Embassy in London is to be spruced up after neighbours complained about its dilapidated and dirty condition.

The stucco finish is cracked and peeling and glass around the entrance is broken, contributing to the down-at-heel appearance of the whole five-storey building. In contrast, the Kuwaiti Embassy, housed in its identical twin on the other side of Albert Gate in Knightsbridge, is immaculately painted, with potted bay trees standing fresh and green by the front door against the cream walls.

The two buildings were early 19th-century private homes designed in the Italianate style by Thomas Cubitt, just down the road from the Duke of Wellington's residence at Hyde Park Corner. The grand living rooms, with their ornate plaster work and chandeliers, made them ideal for receptions. In 1853, No 58 was bought by the French

Government to serve as its embassy. It has been well maintained down the years and was last renovated in 1988, but the grime from what is one of London's busiest roads has taken its toll on the paintwork. Now the residents feel that the building's poor condition is lowering the tone of Belgravia.

Sir Robin Gillet, a former Lord Mayor of London, said: "We wouldn't let our embassies abroad look like that. If I were ambassador I would feel ashamed. All it needs is a coat of paint, and I would have thought that France should have enough money for that."

Knightsbridge Residents' Association has asked Westminster Council and English Heritage to intervene but the building is protected by what amounts to diplomatic immunity, so there is no way of forcing France to pay for a coat of paint. Carol Seymour-

Newton, the association's secretary, said: "It's very sad because it is such an attractive building."

According to Hermione Hobhouse, Cubitt's biographer, the stucco needs repainting every four years to protect it from the high pollution. "Leaving a fine building in this sort of condition is a bit of a disservice to the host nation," she said.

The embassy has not been able to afford renovation costs because it has recently needed to pay for similar work on the French Institute in South Kensington and to the ambassador's residence in Kensington Palace Gardens. Next year, however, there will be enough money for the much-needed coat of paint.

"We are very proud of our properties in London," Laurent Lemaire, the embassy spokesman, said. "We appreciate that the are part of historic London and we try to maintain them."

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Shipping tycoon steers middle course as he sails into Hong Kong job

FROM JONATHAN MIRSKY
IN HONG KONG

TUNG CHEE-HWA, Peking's long-designated candidate to be Hong Kong's first post-1997 Chief Executive, will be selected formally for the post tomorrow and instantly become the supreme political figure in the British colony.

A 400-member Selection Committee of Hong Kong citizens picked by Peking — 60 of whom serve on Peking government bodies — will choose Mr Tung at the Convention Centre here.

C.H., as he is widely known, speaks Cantonese, Mandarin and English and was born in what was then the French concession in Shanghai. He is the embodiment

of Hong Kong's cosmopolitanism, having studied at Liverpool University, before working at General Electric in America. He returned to the colony to take over his family's shipping business.

The family had fled to Hong Kong in 1949 when he was 12 years old. His was a traditional Chinese upbringing which appears to have stood him in good stead when the shipping company, Orient Overseas, ran into trouble. His father had over-expanded it into the world's second-largest shipping empire and by 1985 had incurred debts of \$2.6 billion (£1.6 billion). Mr Tung took a controversial restructuring loan of \$120 million which was backed by China.

Like many businessmen here, he

is adept at playing both sides of the political divide, having acted as co-chairman of Peking's Preparatory Committee to map out the future while at the same time advising Chris Patten, the Governor.

On Sunday, Mr Patten promised that the first Chief Executive would have senior staff from the civil service to help him during the six months he will be preparing programmes and policies. But the Governor added that according to the 1984 treaty with China, he would retain ultimate responsibility until July 1 next year. Although this is legally true, much of his power will seep away to Mr Tung over the next six months.

His selection will end a largely notional contest. There were three

other key candidates: Simon Li, a retired high court judge; Ti Liang-yang, the resigned Chief Justice; and Peter Woo, son-in-law of the late Sir Y.K. Pao, one of the richest men in the colony.

On November 15, at a preliminary vote in the Convention Centre, decorated to resemble Peking's Great Hall of the People and overseen by Qian Qichen, the Chinese Foreign Minister, Mr Li was eliminated and Mr Tung received 206 votes, more than double the runner-up, Mr Ti.

The result was foretold in January in Peking, when President Jiang Zemin singled Mr Tung out of a crowd for a handshake. He bestowed a second on Henry Fok, the aged millionaire who had

played a vital role in helping Mr Tung out of near-bankruptcy.

When Mr Patten became Governor he appointed Mr Tung to his Executive Council. Mr Patten denies this was intended to establish a conduit to Peking, where Mr Tung is close to the supreme power structure. He also sits on American Foundation boards to blunt hostility to China, he explained recently.

Mr Tung has visited some of the colony's poorest people and expressed sympathy and surprise at their lot. He has also surveyed schools, trade unions, public bodies and political parties, and showed unflappable amiability and the ability to dodge tricky questions on human rights, free speech, China's political prisoners

and Hong Kong's democrats. More recently he has emerged as Peking's man, and emphasises his Chinese-ness.

No group advocating the independence of Tibet or Taiwan will be welcome here after 1997, he says. "As a Chinese man I consider this intolerable." He has also virtually condemned the Democratic Party here as un-Chinese.

"I am sure my view on China is wide and deep," he said last week. At his first major press conference in October he observed: "My philosophy is that one should emphasise obligations rather than rights."

On the Tiananmen Square massacre in 1989 he said: "It happened. Leave it to history."



Tung attending a Kowloon traders' meeting yesterday

Peking wields whip as party tries to hold back change

FROM JAMES PRINGLE IN PEKING

CHINA is in the middle of the harshest political campaign since the aftermath of the violent 1989 suppression of pro-democracy demonstrations in Tiananmen Square. The campaign has seen a fresh crackdown on dissidents, the media and even the once brilliant film industry.

But Chinese people as a whole do not seem to be paying it much heed.

Slogans extolling President Jiang Zemin's hardline "spiritual civilisation" campaign festoon the billboards on Peking's traffic-choked main streets. "Devote great efforts to building up socialist spiritual civilisation," urges a giant slogan at the southern end of Tiananmen Square, not far from Mao's mausoleum.

The campaign is a movement to haul China's fast-evolving society back onto a narrower, more controllable track and into at least a surface unquestioning obedience to the Communist Party, analysts say.

The party is nervous as it approaches 1997, with the return of Hong Kong to Chinese sovereignty in mid-year, a later crucial party congress ushering in leadership changes, and the possibility that the ailing 92-year-old senior leader, Deng Xiaoping,

may pass from the scene, envoys say. "All these events are potentially destabilising," said one diplomat.

This explains the clampdown on human rights activists this year, including the trials and harsh jail terms for the two most prominent dissidents, Wei Jingsheng and the former student leader, Wang Dan. Newspapers, fairly lively a year ago, are now universally boring, the Chinese complain. "The leadership of the news media must be tightly held in the hands of those who are loyal to Marxism, the party and the people," President Jiang said when he visited *People's Daily*.

"The spiritual civilisation campaign is to reinforce the leadership of the party and to show it still has an ideological reason to exist even though true Marxism is dead," said one analyst. "A byproduct is to improve morals and hit burgeoning crime, especially corruption."

Under the campaign to enforce ideological orthodoxy, culture police have emasculated the much-praised film industry. Only 70 films have been produced this year, less than half last year's total.

Many more face delayed approval and have to show "Communist heroes and up-

right cadres" instead of decadent scenes of prewar Shanghai and hints of homosexuality, as in past films by Zhang Yimou and Chen Kaige.

Peking has also reasserted control over imported TV programmes and cable TV systems. In a throwback to earlier, and outmoded, "socialist emulation" campaigns, people are urged to forswear rampant materialism and to learn from model bus conductresses and plumbers who "serve the people" at all hours and in all weathers.

The current ruthless "strike hard" campaign against crime is popular, with almost 2,000 criminals shot this year, while the party has given many people a better lifestyle.

Yesterday markets were full of fresh fruit and vegetables, even bananas from Ecuador. Shops were awash with consumer goods and restaurants full of family parties.

"People have turned out of politics," said one US-educated Chinese man. "They want to lead a quiet life unaffected by crime, make money, watch TV soap operas and get on with their lives. Most have little regard for party and government leaders, but nobody wants to see disorder again such as in 1989, so street unrest is unlikely."



Seventeen members of a defected North Korean family arrive in Seoul from Hong Kong after a 44-day trek through China. They carried their stroke-hit father for thousands of miles as they fled from their Communist homeland (Stella Kim writes). Choi Hyun Sil, wife of a defected military official, said: "We were able to make it because we held on to each other with a single goal to get here as soon as possible."

Transfer of colony vexes US

FROM TOM RHODES
IN WASHINGTON

THE White House has placed Hong Kong at the top of its list of concerns over future Sino-American relations and said an undemocratic transfer of the British colony to Chinese sovereignty could sour President Clinton's policy of engagement with Peking.

Defence Minister, a top White House official was reported as saying fears of turmoil had become the biggest uncertainty. "If they [Chinese officials] mishandle the reversion and it does not go reasonably well, that will sour our relationship in a serious way," said Sandy Berger, the newly appointed National Security Adviser, in a *Los Angeles Times* interview.

Mr Berger, who cited weapons proliferation and possible Taiwan disputes as

Chinese landings pose new threat to Taiwan

Peking: In what could be a veiled new warning to Taiwan, China claimed yesterday it had staged amphibious war games that indicated a turning point in its ability to land forces on distant shores aided by what it termed the "iron fist" of its armoured units (James Pringle writes).

The report made no mention of any potential target and did not identify the military units that took part. Nor did it say where the exercises took place. American analysts say they do not believe that China would have the ability to mount an assault across the 150-mile-wide Taiwan Strait for several years.

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TWTN10

Boost for ANC after new South African Constitution spurns federalism

FROM R. W. JOHNSON
IN JOHANNESBURG

THE final passage of the new South African Constitution through the Constitutional Court has been widely acclaimed here and all political parties, even the Inkatha Freedom Party and Democratic Party which objected to certain clauses, have accepted the legitimacy of the new document.

It will come into effect in 1999, with the country meanwhile remaining under the jurisdiction of

the Interim Constitution negotiated in 1994.

The crux of the objections to the new document lay in its strong centralising thrust. The court threw out an earlier version on the ground that it violated the agreed principle that the powers of the nine provinces should not be less than those granted in the Interim Constitution.

In effect the African National Congress has called the court's bluff and returned to it a draft which even the court's president,

Judge Arthur Chaskalson, admitted still reduced provincial powers. Nonetheless the court — in which the ANC has an overwhelming majority — balked at the thought of throwing the document back a second time and has bent the knee to the ANC leadership.

This is a matter of no small moment. As foreign well-wishers have pointed out with increasing anxiety, there is no case in the world of a democratic state of South Africa's size and complexity which has not opted for federalism:

the only non-federal examples are undemocratic.

The Germans, in particular, felt so strongly on the matter that they have repeatedly flown all-party South African delegations over to Bonn to demonstrate the virtues of German federalism. None of this has worked, for the ANC identifies federalism with its political foes and apartheid.

The ANC chose the very day of the Constitution's certification to give a further display of just how centralist it is. In the past fortnight,

the ANC's inner Cabinet has intervened to remove the popular Premier of the Free State, Patrick Lekota. He had won almost unanimous backing from all races with his crusade against corruption, but this had created difficulties for him within the provincial ANC, several of whose leaders Mr Lekota had accused of corruption. The party announced that Mr Lekota and his opponents had been "redeployed" and then imposed a new Premier without a vote. Yesterday it emerged that the ANC executive

had decided to remove another provincial Premier, Raymond Mhlaba, of the Eastern Cape, and President Mandela intervened to head off the possibility of an open contest for the premiership of the Northern Province.

The country is being run by a small, inner ANC elite whose members are attempting to make elective legitimacy and accountability subject to their whim. For this group, party interests come far ahead of any constitution.

South Africa, however, is a

difficult country to govern. In some areas, it is impossible to implement government measures. Accordingly, in the opposition-ruled provinces of KwaZulu/Natal and the Western Cape, both Premiers are quietly preparing the ground for greater federalism.

This may be how the new Constitution evolves — a gloriously complex legal code, ignored by the ANC elite who put party considerations first, and more stealthily ignored by provincial Premiers on the ground of practicality.

Police find hoard of silver in homes of Indian leader

BY CHRISTOPHER THOMAS AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

POLICE in India have seized half a tonne of silver in raids on the homes of a leading woman politician, arrested for alleged fraud, a police lawyer said yesterday.

"The police have recovered, among other things, half a ton of silver and 66 to 88lb of gold," N. Natarajan told a court in Madras. The raids were conducted over two days at two homes of Jayaram Jayalalitha in southern Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh states. The lawyer said the seized bullion was worth 580 million rupees (£10.3 million).

Mrs Jayalalitha, the former Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, was arrested on Saturday and sent to Madras central jail to await trial for alleged fraud in the purchase of thousands of colour televisions for 85 million rupees with state funds.

The television sets were supposed to have been given to poor villagers to provide community education and entertainment. She faces several other corruption charges.

The politician, whose regional party was an electoral ally of the Congress Party of P. V. Narasimha-Rao, the former Prime Minister, has denied any wrongdoing and accused the state government of victimising her.

More than 5,000 of her supporters were detained at the weekend after they launched violent protests against her arrest. One supporter set himself on fire to

protest against her detention. He died the following day. Mrs Jayalalitha spent several million pounds on the wedding of the century last year for her foster son, blacking out the huge reception needed so much electricity. It was one of many excesses of her disastrous rule over 55 million people. There was rejoicing across the state yesterday at her public disgrace.

Her bank accounts have been frozen and her four houses attached by the courts while income tax authorities seek to recover £600,000 in unpaid taxes. She has been given a cell to herself in jail.



Jayalalitha emerging from a prison van

and handed the regulation tin plate for meals and a jar for water.

Police continue to fawn over her, however. A senior officer involved in her arrest was so nervous he fell while getting out of the police van and seriously injured himself. She kept the officers waiting for more than an hour while she completed her morning prayers at her Madras mansion and had breakfast.

The arrest adds to a lengthening list of the Indian mighty who are fallen. Mr Rao is fighting to stay out of jail on a charge of participating in the forgery of documents in 1989 to discredit V. P. Singh, then the Prime Minister. He is free on bail of £2,000.

Mr Rao's old friend, the "godman" Chaudhary, has already had a spell in jail on fraud charges and looks likely to return for allegedly failing to declare the receipt of foreign donations to his religious organisation.

Subramaniam Swamy, the former Law Minister, also faces arrest for allegedly failing to declare donations from abroad.

Meanwhile, in Pakistan, Asif Zardari, the husband of Benazir Bhutto, ousted as Prime Minister on November 5 by presidential order, is in jail while police investigate corruption allegations. He announced over the weekend that he would not contest the February 3 general election.



In Calcutta many of the poor have made their home under railway platforms. At least two of the railway dwellers are killed by trains every day

Delhi's reforms widen rich-poor divide

India's five-star hotels are full but millions live on five pence a day. Christopher Thomas writes from Calcutta

CROWDS of beggars throng the pavements outside Calcutta's £200-a-night, five-star hotels, sometimes setting up home there to pursue everyone who enters and leaves.

The rich-poor divide in India's most decrepit city is stark and unprecedented, a trend evident nationwide after five years of economic reforms.

A newly released report by the Independent National Council of Applied Economic Research reveals the extent of the divide. It says that more than 100 million rural Indians, 16 per cent of the total, live on less than three rupees (about five pence) a day — several times lower than the official poverty line.

West Bengal, of which Calcutta is the capital, is said to be one of the poorest states. The per capita rural income is \$54 annually, driving more and more people to the cities in search of a living. Rich areas of Calcutta, such as Alipore,

with mansions and tree-lined avenues, are generally kept clear of beggars as the rich increasingly clash with the poor.

Hawkers have been part of the Calcutta scene for as long as anyone remembers, and hundreds of thousands of people directly and indirectly owe their livelihoods to them. The local authority has decided, however, that they are as much an affront to the city's new aspirations as rickshaw pullers, and both groups have been ordered off the streets.

There are bright new car showrooms in Calcutta alongside some of the world's biggest slums, selling top-of-the-line foreign vehicles that can

hardly find space on the city's hopelessly crowded streets. The five-star hotels were mostly full last week and are booked for weeks ahead; the new air conditioned shopping centres are crowded, as are the many expensive new restaurants. There has never been such a demonstration of wealth in Kipling's "city of darkest night".

The middle classes are not part of the Indian economic bonanza, with most complaining that they are poorer than their parents. The myth of the Indian middle class was started by Rajiv Gandhi, the former Prime Minister, who put it at 100 million: it is now said to number 200 million or even 300 million. The absurdity of this figure

has not been appreciated by some foreign investors, many of whom have over-estimated Indians' buying power.

Most middle-class Indians do not own a car, do not take holidays and cannot afford a washing machine nor, in many cases, even a refrigerator. In most of the big cities only the rich can afford to buy property. Flats in central Bombay sell at around £600,000. A modest house in a decent area of Delhi costs £300,000, with prices still rising rapidly. These distortions are caused by the small number of newly rich Indians, who increasingly wield political influence, squeezing the middle classes out of that traditional role.

The study concluded that 39 per cent of people in the countryside lived in poverty. The average income throughout rural India was put at about £78 a year, with Punjab — the breadbasket of India — the most prosperous state, and Orissa the poorest.

Taleban bans use of paper bags

Kabul: Taleban militias, controlling three-quarters of Afghanistan, yesterday banned paper bags as part of its bid to impose pure Islamic law.

Amir Khan Mutaqi, the acting Information Minister, said: "We respect paper, whether it is written on or not. We have announced that people should not use paper

for bags or put paper on the rubbish tip." He added: "People should use plastic bags instead of paper."

But plastic bags are more expensive. Many women eke out a meagre living by turning discarded paper into bags.

One trader said the Taleban had told him to stop selling paper bags. "They said there

might be some words from the Koran or Arabic writing on the paper which might then be thrown away and that would be an insult to the Koran."

The small foreign community here, unsure of how wide the paper ban would extend, has made a run on toilet paper at the few shops that supply Western goods. (Reuters)

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US bid to enforce labour rights sours world trade forum

By TOM RHODES AND CHARLES BREMNER

A QUARREL over efforts to ensure human rights in the global workplace pitted Britain against the United States and France yesterday, sowing the seeds of the first ministerial session of the World Trade Organisation.

The dispute over whether to include minimum labour standards in trade rules, a US-backed move that angers developing countries, was the first flare-up in a Singapore gathering where ministers from 128 nations are wrangling over a much-contested agenda to ease the world towards fully unfiltered trade.

Progress was made, however, in efforts to meet a February deadline for liberalising telecommunications and in a deal to eliminate tariffs on computers, software and communications products by 2000, billed as the highlight of the five-day meeting of the WTO, the successor to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade. The American proposal was placed in jeopardy after European officials insisted any deal must be linked to other trade issues.

European officials have accused the US of backing the inclusion of fibre-optic cables, capacitors, photocopyers and graphic display tubes on the list of items to be freed of tariffs. The four products represent \$13 billion (€8 billion) of the \$95 billion in information technology products exported last year.

Despite a signal from the US delegation that Washing-

ton is prepared to soften its stance on trade and labour standards, many Asian countries among those attending have said the millennium deadline for the Information Technology Agreement (ITA) would not give enough time for their domestic industries to prepare for foreign competition. But the WTO ministers appeared committed to reaching some form of agreement.

Goh Chok Tong, the Prime Minister of Singapore, said an agreement would be reached but not one that would include zero tariffs by 2000. Sir Leon Brittan, the European Trade Commissioner, and Charlene Barshefsky, the acting US Trade Representative, were meeting last night to iron out substantial differences.

Sir Leon, speaking before the meeting, said: "If we do not make substantial progress

on both issues this week... then our meeting will not be the big success we all want."

Europe is concerned that if a technology deal is made without a strong political declaration on other issues, the meeting of the fledgling WTO would be a disaster.

Ms Barshefsky had said that she did not remotely accept any linkage between the ITA and a WTO ministerial declaration. She said removing tariffs would lower consumer costs, increase competition and help the motorcar, textile and steel industries. "That is why we must reach an understanding."

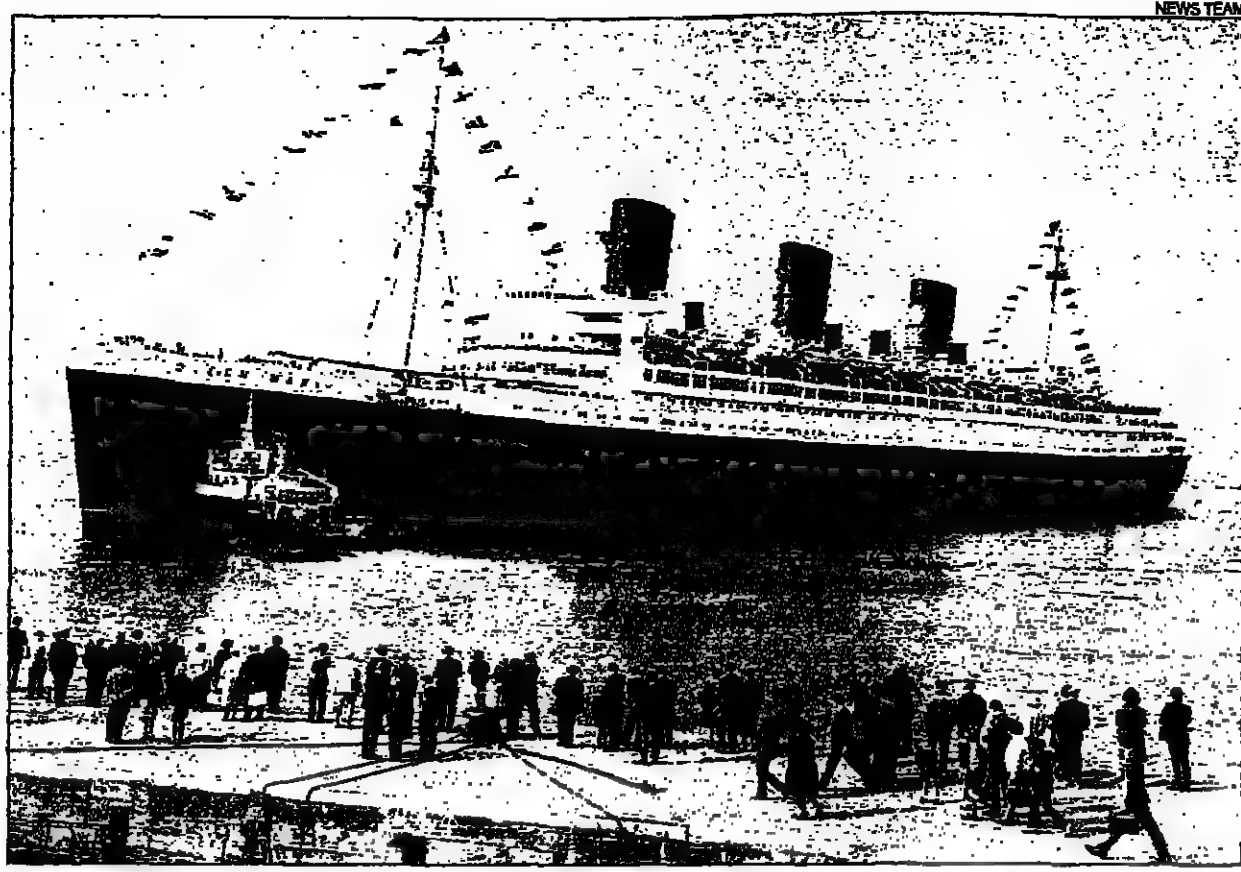
Separately, Cuba used the first ministerial conference to accuse the US of violating the rules of the body with its 35-year economic blockade of Havana and the implementation of the Helms-Burton law aimed at punishing foreign investment in the island.

The big gulf in Singapore divides the industrialised North against the developing South, over labour standards, plans to remove barriers to services and investment and measures to end corruption in public contracts and the removal of tariffs on farm trade. But Sir Leon denied the Third World claim that labour standards were an attempt by the rich to keep out low-priced goods. "We do not have any protectionist intentions and we do not regard cheap labour as unfair trade," he said.

Leading article, page 19



Britain attempted to reassure Third World



The Queen Mary turning round at Southampton before setting off for New York in her heyday

Japanese offer berth for Queen Mary

FROM GILES WHITTILL IN LOS ANGELES

THE Queen Mary, one of the largest liners yet built, could weigh anchor for the first time in 30 years and head for Japan if talks in California bear fruit.

Built between the wars to ply the Atlantic at a formidable 30 knots, the Queen Mary has been moored since 1967 in Long Beach harbour, south of Los Angeles, as a hotel, conference centre and slowly deteriorating tourist attraction.

Negotiations under way with a Japanese consortium to tow her nearly 6,000 miles across the Pacific "are going very well", Joseph Prevratil, the ship's chief executive, said at the weekend. In her new life

in Tokyo Bay, the Queen Mary would bedazzle visitors after a lavish \$50 million (\$30.5 million) refit of her Art Deco lounges, restaurants and staircases.

But Mr Prevratil, who faces uproar from Long Beach Queen Mary enthusiasts if the ship leaves, said that the chances of the move happening were still only "50-50", not least because it would have to be ratified by the local city council.

"We will look closely at any deal struck with the Japanese and we would not doubt seek compensation for the loss of tourist dollars," a spokesman

for the council said. Although still a proud silhouette on the Californian horizon, the Queen Mary is a shadow of her former self.

Most of the liner's boilers and machinery were removed on her arrival in Long Beach to make way for a maritime museum that is still only half-complete.

Hopes of a full refit were dashed when the Walt Disney Company scrapped plans to make the liner the centrepiece of an oceanfront theme park in 1992.

Contenders for the ship's lease included a British group from Southampton, her home

port. A non-profit corporation, which was led by Mr Prevratil, won the lease but has been able to afford only piecemeal renovations. As a result, the ship's six acres of teak decks remain in urgent need of repair.

Should the 81,000-ton liner find a permanent home in Tokyo, she would at least be nearer her sister ship, the Queen Elizabeth.

Both vessels enjoyed their proudest years as troop ships during the Second World War, but the Queen Elizabeth is now the most famous wreck to be found in Hong Kong's harbour.

Top crime novelist is found dead in Chicago

FROM QUINN LITTLE IN NEW YORK

A LEADING crime writer has been found dead in Chicago, swaying from a rope in what could have been a scene from one of his books.

The body of Nick Galtano was hanging in full view from the 14th floor of a central Chicago skyscraper. Mr Galtano, 43, whose real name was Eugene Izzel, was successful, married with two children, and appeared to be set for many years of prosperity.

His death raised the sort of questions familiar to readers of his tough-but-true crime thrillers. Was it suicide? Why did he do it? Was the Mob involved? From what was he escaping?

There was no sign of a struggle or indication of foul play, but Chicago police made a detailed search of the scene of his death and intend to examine closely the demise of the author who depicted the city's criminal underworld so realistically.

Mr Galtano's books included *Mr X: Jaded* (published in Britain as *Spent Force*), *Bullet from the Street*, and *Special Victim*.

For the past decade he had written more than a book a year and his work acquired a cult following. At the time of his death he was at work on a book about the Mafia. The former soldier set his novels in the roughest parts of Chicago, where he lived.

Clinton unleashes pit bull on scandal-hunters

A damaging gap is opening up between the stonewalling President and the media, Bronwen Maddox writes from Washington

AS President Clinton assembles his Cabinet and tries to set his agenda for the second term, murky allegations about Whitewater, the Paula Jones sexual harassment case and tainted Democratic fundraising continue to swirl around him.

The White House has been widely accused by the media of adopting a siege mentality and stonewalling inquiries. The *New York Times*, which endorsed Mr Clinton in the election, headlined its editorial on November 20 "An instinct to deceive" and asked: "What will it take to persuade this White House to tell the truth simply and promptly once a scandal is brewing?"

It accused the President of a "cover-up instinct" which "has

made a quagmire of Whitewater and is turning the Indonesian fundraising affair into a matter that neither Congress nor the Attorney-General can ignore."

Since Watergate, it has been a favourite technique of the US media to focus on the cover-up as much as the offence. But the reluctance of the White House to yield information may be ineptness or a "justified wariness of the media, rather than an indication that it has something to hide."

The latest accusation, hurled even by the President's supporters in the press, is that the White House is working behind the scenes to portray the Whitewater investigation by Kenneth Starr as a Republican plot. James Carville,

former White House strategist and spin doctor, known as the "Ragin' Cajun" for his Louisiana roots, announced on television on November 24 that he was setting up a campaign to "inform" the public about Mr Starr's "right-wing agenda".

Mr Carville claims to be acting independently. White House spokesmen have denied that the President can rein in this freelance advocate, a claim greeted with scepticism in many quarters.

Indeed, Mary Matalin, who is Mr Carville's wife as well as

a Republican strategist and talkshow host, said on Sunday of her spouse: "It stretches any credulity to believe that the White House could not stop this rabid dog. He's not my husband when I speak of him as a frothing, rabid dog. He's clearly a front for the President. If anyone is close to obstruction of justice, it's the President of these United States whose pit bull is out front."

The row over Mr Carville's behaviour follows controversy over the White House's

acknowledgement that the President's talks with James Brady, the Indonesian billionaire, originally described as purely social, included discussion of trade policy.

The White House has not been helped in handling these affairs by the departure of many advisers who defended the President in the first term. In addition to Mr Carville, he is losing George Stephanopoulos, a senior adviser, Mark Gearan, former White House communications director, and probably also Harold Ickes, Deputy Chief of Staff. Mark Fabiani and Jane Sherbourne, both associate counsels who defended Mr Clinton in the Starr investigations through the past year, are also quitting.

Michael McCurry, White

House spokesman, is reported to be anxious about the gulf between the President and the media. He is doing his best to bridge it, offering homely personal snippets, such as his portrait of the President dancing the macarena, a dance he learned on Air Force One at the end of the campaign trail. But the gap is unlikely to be closed, or *The New York Times* silenced.

That is not to say that no scandal lies behind the White House denials, that the Paula Jones case will dissolve and foreign policy be shown to be immune to foreign influence. But critics of the White House's handling of the scandal have not yet established that behind the stonewalling there is something to hide.



An image similar to Edward Munch's *The Scream* at a Belgrade protest against President Milosevic

Right calls for Bosnia pullout

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

ONLY days after President Clinton named his foreign policy team, leading Republicans yesterday urged the White House to abandon its high-profile mission in Bosnia-Herzegovina and surrender peacekeeping responsibilities to Britain and Europe.

John Kasich, chairman of the House Budget Committee, described America's planned 18-month extension of American troops in the Balkans as a "big mistake" and said he was working with a bipartisan group in Congress to demand a withdrawal by next spring.

"I am very concerned this could represent a permanent presence in Bosnia like we've

had in Korea. I think it would be a major mistake," said Mr Kasich. "We did our job over there. It's now up to the Europeans to exercise real burden-sharing, and American forces ought to come home in a timely manner in the spring."

The growing body of opposition on Capitol Hill to America's presence in the region is certain to dominate the early months of the new national security team's tenure. It will also be the first test of strength for William Cohen, the retiring Republican senator for Maine, who was named last week as Mr Clinton's Defence Secretary. In the past, Mr Cohen had been one of the most vociferous

Congress opponents to "mission creep" in Bosnia.

Under the terms of the Dayton peace agreement, Washington agreed to dispatch 20,000 troops to the Balkans to provide security for implementation of the truce's civilian elements, including elections and the creation of democratic institutions in Bosnia.

Mr Clinton promised Congress the troops would be withdrawn by the end of this year. Shortly after his re-election, however, the President announced the deployment of 8,500 US soldiers to form part of a new international peacekeeping mission until June 1998.

Palestinians storm campus in Hebron

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

HUNDREDS of Palestinian students broke into the locked campus of Hebron University on the West Bank yesterday, defying a military order that shut the college in March.

The protest came as senior Israeli intelligence and defence officials claimed that Yasser Arafat's Palestinian Authority was striving to build up supplies of anti-tank and anti-aircraft missiles in anticipation of further clashes.

After a stand-off in Hebron, where scores of paratroopers besieged the university, Israeli radio reported last night that the Israeli and Palestinian authorities had struck a deal

to allow the protesters to "disperse quietly without intervention or arrest". Masliah al-Daoudi, a PLO negotiator, said the Israeli had agreed to permit the university of 1,500 students and the separate Polytechnic Institute of 1,000 students, shut at the same time, to reopen later this month.

Israel shut the colleges, regarded as hotbeds of Islamic extremism, during suicide bombings which left more than 60 people in Israel dead. Their continued closure has been the source of frustration among young Palestinians in Hebron.

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Neutrality is established in

Diana, Princess of Wales, reveals her ignorance of Eton etiquette as she arrives to meet her son's housemaster

Neutrality of behaviour is even more important. It has to be remembered that just by turning up, parents will seem a bit "keen", which is anathema to the Etonian. Most parents do not go to the Eton Carol Service because some

your parents sit among
with you in chapel it is much
harder to exchange offensive
notes with friends, or graffiti
hymnbooks. My parents came
once — "We had to, Guy — you
might have regretted us not
coming in later life." I still
blush when I remember my
friends snickering at me, their
faces saying, "Hadeehaha —
he's with parents — let's make
him laugh." I never told them
when I read the lesson.

Again, the strict rule of neutrality applies. Mothers should not be seen talking to the Dame (matron) about athlete's foot or dhoti itch. This was the mistake my mother made. (In every other respect, my parents were models of neutrality — they met my second housemaster only twice.) Fathers should have a conversation with the housemaster that lasts three ex-

transfers, that lasts three exchanges and includes the sentence "I'm afraid I found some magazines in his room". Ideally, parents should talk to other parents — preferably to those to whom they are related by London postcode or blood — and they should leave after precisely half an hour. At least Prince William's parents got that right.

Parents should never kneel for prayers — Etonians are proudly irreligious and merely slump more than they do during the sermon and lesson. Kneeling is keen, keen, keen and high on the embarrassment table. Fathers should always keep one hand in a

**'Parents
should
never
kneel
during
prayers'**

The final carol service hurdle for Etonian parents is the housemaster's drinks party. Most housemasters are notoriously gauche and have an appalling idea of what constitutes a "drink". Sherry is sweet and wine is cheap, and sugar lumps mysteriously surface in liquids which aren't tea. Housemasters are useless at

SECTION
*Richard Cork
is overwhelmed
by the flaring,
sensuous
intensity of
Howard
Hodgkin's
world,
on show at the
Hayward
Gallery
Arts 33-35*

Stress counselling may not work for everyone, says Anjana Ahuja

the person's own psychological defences. In fact, although we joke about it, tea and sympathy might be more appropriate."

Dr Hobbs says that the nature of the debriefing is also important. At present, intervention might be too early, too generalised and may even exaggerate the incident. He urges more research into debriefing and counselling, and more screening to detect those most at risk from post-traumatic stress disorder.

The study is the latest of many over the past few years to question the practice. One important review, published in the *BMJ* last year, pointed out that although debriefing after trauma had become a "powerful social move-

Stress debriefing can fail

Dr Hobbs points out that psychological debriefing was originally developed for military personnel and emergency workers. "If people have been through a harrowing incident together they can support each other. But this is very different from treating an individual," he says.

"Debriefing is designed to get behind people's defenses. That's all right for those who want to cry and let go of their fear and anger. For others, it can be helpful and even damaging. Debriefing can push them into talking when they wouldn't normally do so, possibly interfering with

As for why debriefing has become so popular, both Professor Raphael and Dr Hobbs cite feelings of helplessness. "I remember feeling so helpless after Hillsborough. Your instinct is to do something," Dr Hobbs says.

"But to go rushing in where people have been shocked and disorientated can be very destabilising. We must stop and think. There is a conviction by the debriefing movement that counselling is a good thing for everyone, and I think that is very dangerous."



Stress debriefing can fail

STYLE

INTERFACE

OPEN ENROLLMENT

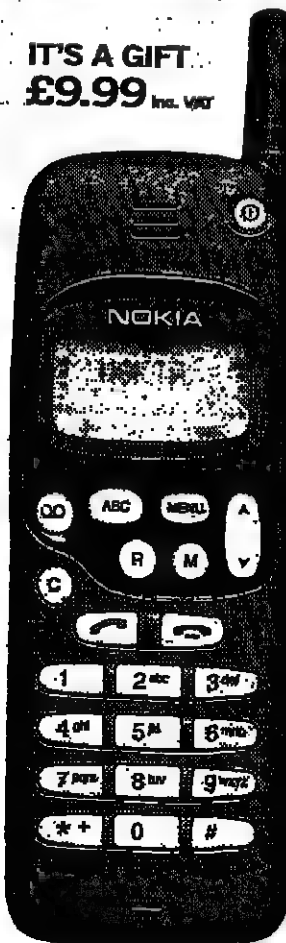
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CHRISTMAS
MESSAGE

1. Josephine

Edward, Mrs Simpson and *The Times*

The Times played a vital role in the Abdication 60 years ago. And history has vindicated our verdict, says Alan Hamilton

An undefended divorce petition at Ipswich Assizes on October 27, 1936 had the headline writers of America reaching for their phillips pens to flag up the hottest human interest story of the year. *King's Moll Reno'd In Wolsey's Home Town*, trumpeted one paper, in a reference to the builder of Hampton Court and the small town in Nevada whose principal industry was the speedy uncoupling of unwanted marriages.

British newspapers, by contrast, reported the hearing in the briefest and most colourless of terms, studiously avoiding any clue to the identity of the petitioner. Mrs Wallis Warfield Simpson, *The Times* gave it four blandly factual paragraphs, under the majestically soporific headline *Un-defended Divorce Suit. Case At Ipswich Assizes. The News Chronicle*, alone among the next day's papers, sketched in the barest detail that the lady had been "well known in social circles in London for several years".

In an age of journalistic deference to the private lives of royalty, the British public was kept in blissful ignorance of their Sovereign's attachment to a divorced American. In contrast to a later age in which the *Daily Mirror* gleefully published pictures of a topos Duchess of York having her toes sucked, the popular press of the 1930s shrank even from printing pictures of the King in shorts and Wallis in bathing costume on a Mediterranean cruise. Fleet Street and clubland knew all about the liaison, of course, but then they always do.

The divorce hearing at Ipswich might well have been the cue to lift the veil on a story which had been rumouring for weeks in the United States and in continental Europe. But the week before the case the King had contacted Lord Beaverbrook, influential proprietor of the *Daily Express*, asking if the hearing could be kept out of the papers; his reason, he said, was purely to save Mrs Simpson from any unpleasantness.

In an age before spin-doctors, King Edward's informal request was the only occasion during the entire Abdication crisis on which there was any attempt by the Crown to influence press coverage, or to throw a blanket over events. Geoffrey Dawson, the Editor of *The Times*, talked to Stanley Baldwin, the Prime Minister, almost daily, and was fully aware of what was going on. But, according to Dawson's own account, Baldwin neither put pressure on him nor told him any secrets. Beaverbrook called a meeting of other proprietors and secured their agreement to discretion over the divorce.

Dawson had his reasons for holding *The Times's* fire. Like all other editors, he could not know at that stage whether the King intended to marry Mrs Simpson, and he high-mindedly took the view that any press comment would merely cloud the King's judgment. Dawson was also much influenced by a letter from a reader in the US who complained of the "poisonous publicity attending the King's friendship with Mrs Simpson", which was appearing in the American press, and which was likely to deal severe damage to British prestige.

The writer hinted that abdication was the only course that could prevent a passing evil from becoming lasting.

The *Times* discovered in mid-November that the King did indeed intend to marry Mrs Simpson. But Editor and Prime Minister were in agreement that any publicity would merely harden the King's resolve and turn probability into certainty. Baldwin also appears to have felt that any press

coverage was likely to weaken his bargaining power with the King. The press maintained its silence.

Yet small coded hints began to leak into the columns of *The Times*. A report of a visit by the Duke of York (later George VI) to Edinburgh unnecessarily but pointedly referred to him as the heir presumptive. A leader purporting to be about the essential unity of the House of Commons professed it would "be able to demonstrate its solid strength in any crisis that may arise, whether foreign or domestic".

The Times well understood that what was now in question was the supremacy of Parliament over the monarch. If the King wished to retain his throne and marry Mrs Simpson against the advice of his elected ministers, that essential principle of constitutional monarchy was being challenged.

Such a story could not be withheld much longer. The spark that lit the fuse came in the end not from London but from Yorkshire. The Bishop of Bradford, addressing an audience of clergy at a diocesan conference, expressed the hope that the King was aware of his need for God's grace at his forthcoming Coronation, and added the wish that he gave more positive signs of this awareness.

Bishop Blunt's intention was to chide his monarch for a poor attendance record at church, but he reckoned without the *Yorkshire Post*, whose Editor Arthur Mann had been in London a few days before, had met Dawson and had been briefed by him on the King's position. To its report of the bishop's speech on December 1, the *Post* added a leader, referring to American rumours about the King, and endorsing the need for him to dedicate himself to his duty. The cat was well and truly out of the bag.

The King had expected a critical barrage from the press, but he feared *The Times* most. Hearing that the paper was preparing an unfriendly leader, he summoned Baldwin and told him to get it stopped. Baldwin pointed out that it was a free country in which the Prime Minister had no control over *The Times* or any other newspaper. But he agreed to ring the paper and ask if the leader might be read down the phone. *The Times* declined, but sent round a proof that night, long after the presses had begun to roll.

When the leader appeared



The Duke and Duchess of Windsor in Bermuda in 1940 after their marriage, which *The Times* described as "incompatible with the throne"; Wallis Simpson four years earlier

controversy rose, *The Times* particularly struck with a directness that was strangely at variance with the suave discretion that stamped its habitual reference to the King.

The attack was sustained over the following days. Demolishing the idea of a morganatic marriage, the paper said bluntly: "The constitution is to be amended in order that (Mrs Simpson) may carry in solitary prominence the brand of unfitness for the Queen's

for morganatic marriage and appealed at least for a delay, even a referendum. Beaverbrook subsequently accused Dawson of playing the part of a ruthless and unscrupulous character assassin, and of being the man chiefly responsible for driving the monarch from his throne.

Even as the instrument of abdication was being signed, on December 10, Dawson maintained the attack, determined that there should be no lingering affection for a King over the water. "Above all let us have no talk of 'romance' about what is indeed a drama, but a drama of the deepest tragedy," *The Times* said that day, adding an attack on the King's unworthy friends "who cared less for his welfare than for their own amusement".

Summing up, Dawson wrote: "The real clash was between the thoughtlessness of an exotic society and the hard core of a British tradition of conduct which is common to all classes in this country." His final, memorable, condemnation was of faint praise: "King Edward had most of the qualities that would have made a great constitutional monarch."

It was Dawson's final shot on the matter, but the last word was Beaverbrook's, writing in his memoirs of that final *Times* leader: "It professed to be an impartial summing-up of the King's character, but it was couched in such terms as might be expected from a magistrate speaking to an incorrigible criminal in the dock. Under the veneer of smooth language, it was a biting and blistering piece of invective."

The hindsight of history must give the contest to Dawson rather than Beaverbrook, although the notion that *The Times* alone was the engine that drove the Abdication is flattering but fanciful.

Most, but not all, of the national and provincial press shared Dawson's view. The *Pro-King* papers were the *Daily Express* and *Daily Mail*, which offered some support

THE TIMES FRIDAY DECEMBER 11 1936

Parliament

ABDICATION OF KING EDWARD VIII

FINAL APPEAL BY THE CABINET REJECTED

PRIME MINISTER'S STORY OF THE CRISIS

"LET US RALLY BEHIND THE NEW KING"

How *The Times* reported the Abdication 60 years ago



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Labour's virtual university

Gerald Holtham fleshes out Gordon Brown's training plan

In 1981, the United Kingdom was the second richest country in the world in terms of output per head. Now we rank 16th. As Hong Kong and Singapore pass us, national introspection about our prolonged relative economic decline intensifies. It is not masked by empty triumphalism about being the enterprise capital of Europe.

A consensus begins to emerge about why Britain has slid so persistently down the relative prosperity league. The finger of suspicion is pointing at education and training. British business in the post-war era tried and failed to achieve the scale economies of the Americans, and largely neglected the German priority of developing and making skill-intensive products.

International comparative studies suggest a reason for this failure. British children in the main are less well educated than their counterparts abroad. The elite are fully competitive, but the average is dragged down by a long tail of underachievement. And we are particularly weak in maths and quantitative skills that are the basis for much technical training.

The problem is given a new topicality by economic globalisation, as footloose capital now scans the world looking for the most favourable production conditions. An educated workforce and concentrations of technical skills are crucial to the task of attracting business. Britain can point to such concentrations in the areas of pharmaceutical research and production and provision of financial services, but in disturbingly few others.

An agreed priority is to raise the skill level of the workforce, but what can public policy do apart from the long essential slog of improving state education? One solution, called for by Gordon Brown, is a "University for Industry" — but what does this mean in a market economy in the technological age?

A key point about the market economy is that the myriad transactions of individuals cannot be directed or even accurately predicted by government. Similarly, an old-fashioned dirigiste approach, attempting to forecast training requirements, risks being misdirected and wasteful.

Something else is needed — a catalyst that causes a nascent market to develop faster than it otherwise would. To do this, the Government must set up an agency to register and catalogue providers of courses. Would-be learners could access the catalogue via the telephone or the Internet. The agency would create a network into which firms and individuals could plug, and many of the courses could be provided online for distance learning. The agency would be a training broker and market maker. It would retail the products of other suppliers, in effect guaranteeing quality.

Not all courses can be followed by people at home or at work without human intervention, guidance or, in the current jargon, "mentoring".

So the University for Industry must franchise local learning centres. These could be local colleges, libraries or companies, which would not necessarily provide their own course materials, but might provide access to the network.

The University for Industry would be a virtual institution, brokering courses and franchising learning centres. It should persuade providers to make their courses as modular as possible and to recognise each other's course credits. That would enable the individual learner to assemble his or her own qualification, the one most relevant to his needs, by completing modules drawn from different suppliers.

Such a flexible structure should enable suppliers of courses and education services to respond to the needs of learners, just as in any competitive market. And the learners would indicate to the suppliers what is needed, without elaborate guesswork.

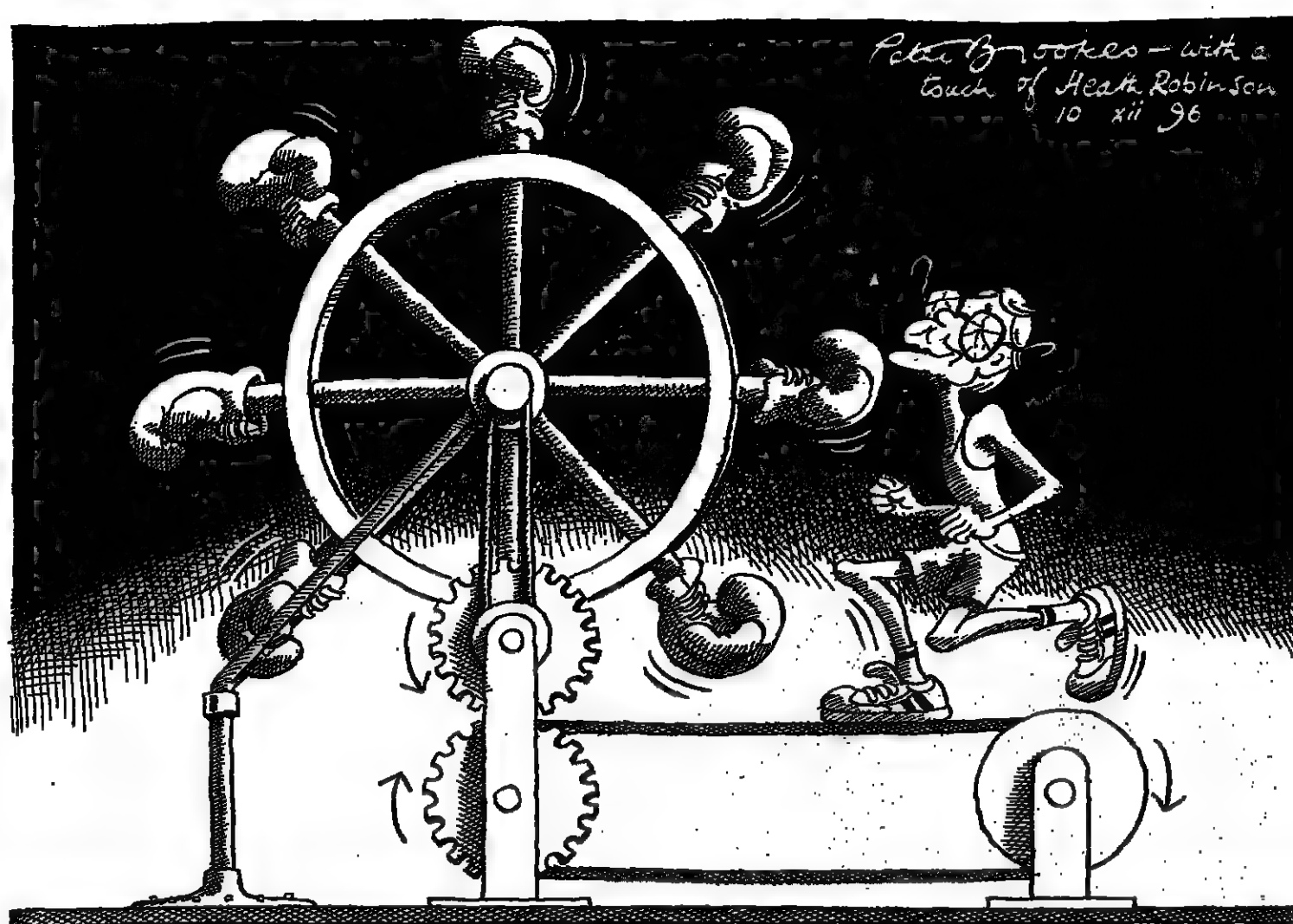
Some will wonder whether this would not all happen spontaneously without the need for any public agency. The answer is that it surely will, but far too slowly. This potential market is characterised by very great fixed costs and scale economies. Devising and preparing a course and programming it so that it can be truly and usefully interactive with a learner is expensive. Creating a good CD-Rom for a simple basic literacy course, for example, can easily cost more than £500,000. Higher-level courses are more expensive still.

Such fixed costs make courses extremely expensive if the market is small. And it is kept small by the high prices charged to cover their development costs. Something is needed to break out of this circle to a higher scale, where educational institutions and multimedia companies are prepared to make large investments in the knowledge that a big market exists. There would be start-up costs in the tens of millions, but the agency should be self-financing within a few years.

By "forcing" the market and accelerating its development, the Government would help the training industry to create more and better resources for distance learning. Just as the National Health Service helped to foster a successful pharmaceuticals company, the University for Industry could foster an internationally successful training industry.

The University for Industry, of course a misnomer, the virtual institution I describe will not provide training at university level alone, but across the skill range, and it will not be of benefit just to industry. But it is a template for the new kind of government intervention that achieves national or social objectives by working with the grain of the market, not across it.

The author is the Director of the Institute for Public Policy Research, which has just published *University for Industry* by Josh Hillman (£7.50).



'The weak are a long time in politics...' (Neil Shand)

Books before archives

What do we care if the laundry-lists of the literati are sold to Texas?

Terrible, scandalous news: Tom Stoppard's letters from Felicity Kendal are lost to the nation forever! The dastardly Americans have bought his literary archive, and on some temperature-controlled shelf in Austin, Texas, lie also such precious documents as a photocopy of his divorce certificate and his invitation to the wedding of Lady Sarah Armstrong-Jones.

As if this were not bad enough, nearby are the papers of David Hare and Penelope Lively: over in Indiana they have got the dog-eared memorabilia of Malcolm Bradbury, and Peter Ackroyd's are at Yale. Never mind that these writers are all still at it, daily generating yet more literary treasures as they make lunch dates, play noughts and crosses with Alan Bennett, scribble wisdoms on paper napkins at the Whitehead, fax their agents and toss duff bits of dialogue into the pig-bin. There will always be eager Americans to exchange it all for more dollars.

There is nothing new about literary archive collecting: it is a bizarre hybrid of hero worship and train-spotting, and was bound to get out of control in an age besotted by celebrity and gossip. Indeed, it is nice to know that broke poets in particular, provided they remember never to throw anything away and eschew e-mail, have a sporting chance of eking out their meagre finances by flogging tatty box-fsets. Good luck to them. However, the examples above come from a Sunday newspaper which gave them the perfectly serious headline "Scandal of Britain's Lost Literary Archives". Its outrage is supported by the British Library manuscripts section which plans a "fight-back". Sally Brown, who is in charge of it, says: "I rather fear that we will have to change tactics in the near future and become slightly more aggressive."

The newspaper's dismay is that scholars wishing to research the lives of British writers might have to go to Texas. Or, I suppose, get on the Internet and dial up www.indiana.bradbury.malcobrydian.uk. Grim, eh? Talk about national humiliation. No wonder Trafalgar Square is full of distraught protesters with banners demanding that we break off diplomatic relations with the US unless the Harry Ransom Humanities Research Center, Texas, sends back the bit of paper on which David Hare jotted down an account of a meeting at Harold and Antonia's place to talk about the evils of Thatcherism. If this does not become a major electoral issue, then what sort of a nation are we?

I will tell you: we are a grown-up nation, a wise little, old little island which, thank God, still has sense enough to take the money, laugh up its sleeve and reserve its reverence for actual books, not snippets of junk fit only to be cobbled up into tedious PhD theses by students who would serve humanity better by getting an honest job on the bins.

Milton said it all, in *Areopagitica*: "A good book is the precious life-blood of a master spirit, embalmed and treasured up on purpose to a life beyond life." Note the words "on purpose". Picking up clues is a fit occupation for detectives, doctors or psychiatrists, but the literary critic and the general reader need not bother with the occults. Here is the work itself, embalmed, perfected, treasured up on purpose. A proper writer refines and edits: the first creative flush may happen as quickly as the writing of a hasty letter or scribbling of a note. After that comes the real work of going back and back again to the words on the page to make sure that they convey exactly what is intended: or as nearly as possible.

When that is done the work goes to the printer, and from that momenton, the really precious bit is also the cheapest. The joyful paradox of literacy is that the general reader, not the curator of manuscripts, gets the best deal. Milton and Auden, Shakespeare and Stoppard, James Austen and Graham Greene can communicate directly with anyone, anywhere, anytime. Whether the reader is a 14-year-old alone in a school library because she has fallen out with her friends, a dying hospital patient or a weary commuter on a stuck train outside Chelmsford, the page makes available the essence of another mind, the life-blood of the master spirit. If you have the blood, why bother with the ear-wax and the stuff from beneath the fingernails?

Biographical gossip, in any case, only hangs about in the emptiest heads. Four of us tried and failed yesterday morning to remember what it was that was lately "revealed" about Thomas Hardy. All of us, however, were ready to shed a tear for the Mayor of Casterbridge, to go into a verse of "The Darkling Thrush" and to murmur into imaginary woodland: "No, I never shall forget Thee my love, for you was a good man, and did good things."

Literary biographers and anthropologists will castigate me, but I do not care. What they do is often amusing and occasionally valuable, but nowhere near as valuable as the work of their subjects. A romp through the letters of Nancy Mitford and Evelyn Waugh is good enough fun, but pallid compared to the sharp, astringent, perfect little worlds of T.S. Eliot's juvenile scatological poems makes no difference whatever to the emotions raised by a quiet, melancholy reading of "The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock". No, I am a biographer, do I much care whether the poet ever did wear the bottoms of his trousers rolled; nor, O university, do I care which nation owns the actual fluff from his turn-ups if he did.

Literary scholars and detectives must remember how desperately transient and unimportant their work is, next to the work of the artists they study. I gather that last week somebody "proved" (to his own satisfaction) that Henry James had a homosexual affair. So what? I know everything I need to know about Henry James from reading *Portrait of a Lady* at an impressionable age, and rushing in delirium to the library to get out every other published word of his. The rest is a private matter between myself, as reader, and Henry James.

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Even the picture in the outraged newspaper of Sally Brown of the British Library holding up a Stephen Spender manuscript failed to move me, though he is a poet who took me through the worst years of youth. As he put it, I think continually of those who were truly great: not of their letters to each other, dance-cards, or even their first drafts. Literature is not politics or even history: it is a unique, precious form of communication beyond the grave and down the centuries.

Why argue the point? Well, I suppose that even the most tedious or prurient potboiler literary research is fairly harmless: marginally more useful than taking down the numbers of locomotives, if not quite as important to cultural history as making a really decent catalogue of beermats. The only reason it is worth jeering at is that as usual, public money has entered the arena, and money is implicitly being asked for by those who would rather Malcolm Bradbury's old school reports were in Britain rather than a publicly available catalogue in a perfectly safe, responsible American university. Not that money, if there is money, is directly needed in the real service of literature and of reading.

Do you know what the Budget meant to public libraries? The Bookseller magazine last week surveyed local authorities and found, to nobody's surprise, a general view that public and school libraries, once again, will be, as one borough spokesman put it, "a savings target". All were agreed that libraries are an easy, therefore an inevitable, economy. Opening hours have already been badly squeezed — which means the library-visiting habit is being killed. The Heritage department has announced a business partnership "Challenge" funding scheme — but for the buildings, not the books. Meanwhile in some areas, libraries themselves spend disproportionate amounts of the little money they have on services other than printed books.

So if there is money to be spent by this greatest of literary nations, then for heaven's sake forget the laundry-lists and spend it on the libraries. Why not photocopy Spender's notebook, let the Americans have the original for a few million, and fund some school libraries? The real miracle of reading is a simple daily one: the relationship between the lone browsing reader and the book, picked up by accident, which changes a life.

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Major, Blair and Basildon

The Tories need Sun readers, says Woodrow Wyatt

With far the largest daily circulation in the country, *The Sun* is also the most powerful newspaper politically. It can be crudely sensational, prurient and muckraking in its search for greater sales. But, undeniably, it is in tune with a huge mass of opinion, including that of intelligent intellectuals. Its brief leading articles, written with the short words favoured by Shakespeare, are the best and most compelling in British journalism. *The Sun* bubbles with entertaining ideas. Yesterday it published a MORI poll commissioned to study the current attitude of "Essex man", whose habitat is Basildon. In April 1992, the Tories won it with 44.9 per cent against 42.4 per cent for Labour and 12.9 per cent for the Liberal Democrats.

The *Sun*'s poll showed Tory support down to 24 per cent and Labour's up to 61 per cent — a colossal swing which, if it occurs in Basildon in the 1997 election and is matched elsewhere, would reduce the Tories to around 100 seats. But when the Basildon voters were asked by MORI whether Britain should join the single currency, 64 per cent were against and only 20 per cent were in favour. Answering a question about whether the EU should continue to move towards political and monetary union, 69 per cent were against and a mere 15 per cent were in favour. And 68 per cent (against 15 per cent) wanted Britain to persuade the EU again to become a common market of independent trading nations. Failing this, the Basildon voters, by a majority of more than 2-1, opted to leave the EU altogether.

How strange. By voting for Blair, Basildon would get the exact opposite of what it wants in Europe. Mr Blair thinks the British interest he promises to fight for mean Britain becoming ever more *communitarian*, increasingly accepting majority voting and driving towards the single currency and political union, which would land us in a federal state. How could Basildon be so wrong? Because, when asked what were the most important issues, only 19 per cent considered Europe important — it came ninth, way below health, education, unemployment, law and order, and so forth. Even care for the environment, a neutral subject on which all are agreed, was ahead.

Brian Mawhinney, the Tory chairman, told listeners to yesterday's BBC Today programme that the election will be fought on issues other than Europe. Identifying himself with the Basildon apathy towards what on Sunday John Major called the most important issue of the century, *The Sun* thinks it is too. But most of the mass media portray the internecine warfare in the Tory party as its most newsworthy aspect. At least the Tories are arguing about the issue, while Gauleiter Blair has banned Labour MPs from doing so, on pain of severe retribution. He knows the divisions over Europe within his ranks are far more acute, whereas the great majority of Tory MPs back Mr Major's approach, which is akin to Basildon's.

In his Sunday interview with John Humphrys, Mr Major resembled President Roosevelt in one of his famous fireside chats. He was totally frank, taking the nation into his confidence. He was adamant that if the conditions for entry into the single currency were shown to be fudged, he would use the veto to halt the proceedings. Meanwhile, under the opt-out he won at Maastricht, it would be folly to declare against the single currency prematurely, because our EU partners, in the hope of tempting us into it, are much more likely to offer concessions which would render it as harmless as possible to Britain and Europe if we are not in it. It is childish to think that if other major nations were in a single currency it would have no impact on us outside it.

As usual, *The Sun*'s commentators yesterday were on the ball in recognising that in the poker-type diplomacy Mr Major is playing, one does not disclose one's hand until it is necessary. But how are we to wake Basildon to the imminent danger of losing all our sovereignty, control of our economy, and other purely domestic matters such as immigration and border controls, and a myriad of freedoms to act as we wish, just as we have for a thousand years?

A fashionable view expounded here by Matthew Parris yesterday is that the Tories, ashamed of their shabby dismissal of Margaret Thatcher, subconsciously want to lose the 1997 election as a penance. This is carrying amateur psychiatry too far. Baroness Thatcher wants no such penitential suicide. She is desperate for a Conservative victory, alert to the catastrophe which would befall us in Europe if Mr Blair won. I hope *The Sun* will employ its great gift of simplifying complicated issues so that its readers, and the country, will stop sleepwalking to disaster. And that the Tories will stop attacking each other and start destroying the paper-thin camouflage concealing Mr Blair and Mr Ashdown. They must trust John Major, whose statesmanship is increasingly respected.

Puppy love

WILTSHIRE'S horsey fraternity is in a muck-sweat about a young puppy from the Wilton Hunt was killed by the gardener on a farm belonging to the Prince of Wales's close friend and former equerry, Major Patrick Tabor.

The puppy, called Galaxy, was in the care of a neighbour, Lady Cobham, when it ran off in her absence to Major Tabor's farm. Galaxy started chasing chickens and came across the gardener. Lady Cobham, who is married to Sir Michael Cobham and unconnected with David Mellor, is distraught, but has decided not to launch an inquiry, even though she is Master of the Wilton. "It was an accident. I was very cross about it at the time, certainly very upset," she said yesterday.

"Paddy Tabor himself did not do it. It was his gardener," she added. "The Tabor's have got these little hens — white silkies — which the puppy started to worry. I don't think it actually killed any of them."

Major Tabor's phone number is ex-directory and he could not be contacted through Buckingham Palace.

ly permitted to shoot dogs that worry livestock. Poor Galaxy's treatment, however, sounds extreme.

Downside

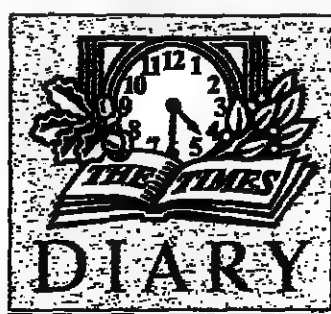
THE smooth-running political machine that is Sir James Goldsmith's Referendum Party has hit a patch of black ice. The party's Christmas cards, of which there are said to be 300,000, have had to be pulped.

The cards are designed to warm the cockles of the billionaire's followers. They carry an ugly cartoon of Jacques "Sancere" Santer, President of the European Commission, handing out bombshells from Europe. Underneath is written "Santer's Clause".

But inside, Sir James's signature was printed upside down — an unacceptable blunder for a perfectionist such as Sir James, who has ordered the lot to be reprinted.

Snap happy

PARIS loves its poodles, but when it comes to pit bulls the law begins



imposed a £900 fine on a young woman whose pit-bull's bark scared a man so badly that he took 10 days' sick leave under doctor's orders. "I was very, very frightened," he wailed. "I've never been through anything like this before, not even in the war in Algeria."

The incident occurred in Montmartre in August 1995, when the chap was taking his bicycle into his apartment building. The dog, unleashed and boisterous, ran up and started barking a few yards away. Rather than report the incident, he wrote to the local mayor to complain of Montmartre's dogs and their pavement deposits. He mentioned the pit-bull incident to the mayor, who tracked down the dog and ensured that the owner was prosecuted.

ties. Breakfast with Frost proved quite an eye-opener on Sunday morning. During an interview with Mary Robinson, President of Ireland, the cable company had technical problems. An adult section of a movie starring Bruce Willis appeared on the screens — all sweat and flesh, and far too much for that time of the morning.

A card

THE ROYAL FAMILY'S choice of Christmas card this year, featuring wood-engravings of the Nativity and the Epiphany from *The Four Gospels* by the wayward artist Eric Gill, is provoking some thought. The illustration was chosen from one of the Royal Collection's 90,000 printed books.

While his artistic importance is not disputed, Gill's family life was

unusual to say the least, including as it did incest with two of his daughters and his sister. A résumé on the card, however, describes him in glowing terms as "bearded", "twinkling", and "deeply religious".

Who's who

FOR THE true state of British affairs, I commend to you Dr Jonathan Miller's *The Mikado*, which returned to the London Coliseum last night. Listen out for Ko-Ko's Little List of society's offenders sung by Richard Stuart: "There's the Kensington and Chelsea Tory man who has been beat / Not only is he Nicholas, he's also lost his seat. . . / And that singular anomaly, the Eurotunneller / With the fires that persist, *Jamais* will they be missed / There's that dear Princess who's richer now by 17 million pounds / The regal Divorced — her mother's been quite pl . . . / And that Duchess whose financial acumen has known no bounds / The big-toe fetishist — her chat shows won't be missed."

Ever one for discretion, Madonna has planned a modest visit to Rome next week. She has booked an entire floor at the Hassler Hotel at the top of the Spanish Steps.



Rock follies: Madonna

Evita. One suite for herself, one for her baby girl. Lourdes (whom she hopes the Pope will bless), and one for Melania Griffiths and Antonio Banderas. Twenty bodyguards are arriving to protect the star on the day she has allocated for interviews with journalists. "Journalists will be allocated three minutes each," snaps one of her entourage.

P.H.S.



TRADED AWAY

The World Trade Organisation's troubled birthday party

Governments attending the first ministerial meeting of the two-year-old World Trade Organisation (WTO) in Singapore this week have much to congratulate themselves about. The Western recession of the 1990s has been singular in one cheering respect: instead of faltering under the protectionist pressures which are fiercest when growth falters, the boom in world trade that began a decade ago has continued, unstripping growth in the global economy. Since trade increases prosperity both by cutting the cost of things people buy and by stimulating efficiency in national economies, that is good news for today's unemployed as well as the workers who have benefited directly.

Trade's robust performance does not mean that protectionist lobbies have gone out of business; far from it. But the new rules which governments finally brought themselves to sign when they concluded the long-running Uruguay Round in 1994 have left them with less legal leeway for giving way to protectionists, even when they want to do so. The deal achieved more than any previous trade negotiation, not only cutting tariffs in manufactures to less than 4 per cent in rich countries but making a start on freeing trade in agriculture and services.

With the creation of the WTO to succeed the old General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), governments also agreed on new, tougher, rules for settling trade disputes and forcing delinquents to comply with decisions that go against them. So far, these have been working well. Best of all, poor countries which used to deride free trade as neo-imperialism have been converted to the truth that all nations stand to win when they open their markets. In 1986, GATT had around 90 members; now the WTO has 126 and 30 more are knocking at the door.

Instead of building on success in Singapore, however, governments are behaving like party-poopers. Sir Leon Brittan's call for a fresh "Millennium Round" to carry the free trade banner into the next century

sounded like the cry of a canary in an airless mine. Within the European Union, Britain is almost his only backer; there is even less enthusiasm elsewhere. Almost every agenda item is deadlocked. An important financial services deal has been stalled since last May by a last-minute American walk-out. The EU is holding up an Information Technology Agreement which would help businesses the world over by making computers and communications cheaper. Still more ominous are the signs that the WTO is succumbing to the politicisation from which GATT was creditably and unusually free.

The WTO can work only if it is seen to be a rule-based organisation. China — which is now the world's eleventh-largest exporter — is demanding to join the club but insists that, uniquely for a country of its size and importance, it should be excused from abiding by most of its rules. No, says Washington, and rightly; perhaps, says the EU, as it eyes the lucrative Chinese contracts. This is a test case on which the West must unite; and it should unite round the American position.

But Washington too is playing political games with the WTO. Backed by France, it wants to oblige all WTO members to observe "core labour standards" such as collective bargaining and, in particular, to end "exploitative" child labour. With around 250 million children at work, many of them in sweatshops, this may seem innocently benevolent. But it passes over the hard fact that in some countries either poor children work or they and their families starve. The International Labour Organisation is the place to take up these concerns. Third World governments suspect, with reason, the existence of a protectionist agenda which would move on from child labour to attack one of their few competitive advantages, their low labour costs. The WTO should stick to its ambitious core task of making trade rules and making them stick, and America should be out there helping, instead of diverting it down a political cul-de-sac.

LANARK LESSONS

The right way to root out public poisoning

Grief is one of the most effective solvents of complacency. It becomes difficult to defend sloppy practice and casual method in the face of tragic loss. The outbreak of food poisoning in central Scotland caused by the bacterium *Escherichia coli* 0157:H7 has now claimed ten lives and blighted more. Although the spread of infection is slowing the demand for action has not abated. Opposition parties are pressing for more extensive inquiries and many voices have been raised for new regulations.

The Fatal Accident Inquiry, which will examine the cause of the ten deaths, should balance depth and speed. The inquiry is, like the Children's Panel, an example of the occasional superiority of Scots to English law. It is more flexible than an inquest and will be able to question ministers and officials as well as meat suppliers. The police are conducting their own inquiries which may lead to criminal prosecution. The legal activity will be complemented by a scientific investigation into the mechanics of the infection's spread conducted by Professor Hugh Pennington from Aberdeen, the country's leading researcher into *E. coli*.

In all probability that should be sufficient. Opposition politicians took advantage of the Scottish Grand Committee meeting yesterday to argue for a full public inquiry such as those which Lord Cullen presided over after the Piper Alpha explosion and Dunblane murders. The demand satisfies a populist appetite but it is not, in this case, appropriate. After both those disasters detailed recommendations on public policy and a new regulatory framework as well as questions of culpability were explored by the inquiry over several months. On the basis of

the facts as they stand no such detailed inquiry with proposals for legislation should be needed.

The methods required to prevent the spread of *E. coli* are already known, and followed, by most food suppliers. The United Kingdom has, and actively polices, some of the world's tightest food regulations. Inevitably, through dishonesty or carelessness, the rules are breached but there is no body of evidence which yet points strongly to the need for change and no guarantee that hours of judicial time would be well spent considering how best to tighten already rigorous guidelines on the separation, chilling and cooking of meat.

The failings which brought about this tragedy appear not to have been legislative, but administrative and mechanical. The public deserve to be told whether it was carelessness on the part of the supplier, inefficiency at Lanarkshire Health Board or inaction by Government that may have exacerbated the infection's spread, but the inquiries so far set in train should do that.

Public anger in Scotland is real but the public are ill-served by attempts to politicise the matter, especially from some pressure groups more interested in attacking the food industry than defending consumers. Nor is the premature scapegoating of tradesmen and public servants, who are clearly conscience-stricken, in anyone's interest. We must await the inquiry's report. But the most practical point to be made is all too prosaic. Individuals can limit the risk to health by buying, storing and cooking food with all possible care; and, even in a country as regulated as Britain, tragic error can still mock honest effort.

A TRUCKER'S PHRASE BOOK

One: beware Greeks offering lifts

Lorry drivers used to be the heavy cavalry of the open road. They were widely envied and much commented on as they thundered down the fast lanes of the motorways, or took short-cuts by country lanes in order to avoid tailbacks. Their machines are faster, newer, and 50 times more powerful than the average family saloon. Once they visited more exotic destinations than those offered by the package holidays. And so they combined the freedom of the knight errant with the virile glamour of the bomber pilot.

But now their glamour and freedom are thwarted by the international road blockade. This latest industrial weapon of besieging countries by blocking their exits and their entrances is spoiling the life and harming the living of the lorry driver. The siege of France has ended after a fortnight in capitulation to the French Government to the extravagant demands of its native truckers. But some of the drivers who were stranded on the outskirts of the Channel ports are now blockaded on Greece's national highway by farmers striking for relief from debt, higher price support and lower VAT.

The Greek siege is entering its second week. Many of the drivers stuck on the road from Larissa fear that they may miss Christmas with their families. Similar incidents on the frontiers of Austria, Italy and Germany show the need for a new phonetically transliterated glossary of foreign phrases. This would replace such obsolete collections

of Victorian gentilities as "My good man, kindly direct me to your apothecary/poet station/chiropractor/barber at once" and "My postilion has been struck by lightning".

Some different phrases might prove more useful on the Post-Modern barricades. Try: "When Greek meets Greek, then comes the tow of car." Or: "It's a nightmare travelling in Greece: I had to stand all the way from Piraeus to Piraeus the other day, and I wasn't even inside my cab." Essential: "It's all Greek to me, Stavros." Most important of all: "Beware of Greeks offering lifts".

Sympathetic Greek farmers, we are told, are supplying the stranded drivers with cheese and wine. So the drivers will need newer dining-room phrases than the grand old ones reproving *maitres d'hôtel* and summoning the chef to instruct him how to brew a cup of tea. More relevant today are such phrases as: Why does your cheese smell of goat? Is this wine, lager or pine essence? Niko? Where is the nearest Roulottes taverna that serves a decent curry?

As for Christmas, the drivers will find that old-fashioned Greeks make more fuss a fortnight later on Epiphany, that name-days and Easter are the important anniversaries, that presents are exchanged on Christmas Eve, and that Greek children (especially boys) are as badly spoilt as British. For in the new world, a trucker has to be a patient diplomat and sociologist to be a simple lorry driver is not enough.

Lack of finance extends NHS lists

From Professor James Drife

Sir, Normally at this time of year it becomes difficult to carry out elective surgery in the NHS because beds are occupied by emergency admissions. This year, however, we are facing worse problems than ever, due not to illness but to bureaucracy. My colleagues and I have been asked to stop operating on non-urgent cases for the next four months because our major purchasers are running out of funds.

We have the surgeons, the nurses, the beds, the theatre time and the equipment. We have patients who need treatment. The only problem is a contract signed last spring by managers who freely admit that they plucked prices out of the air by guesswork.

For the first time in 12 years I now have a waiting list for non-urgent gynaecological surgery. What is so frustrating is that nothing has changed since last year except the forced implementation of a contracting process unconnected with reality.

Yours faithfully,
JAMES DRIFE
(Professor of Obstetrics and Gynaecology,
University of Leeds,
School of Medicine,
D Floor, Clarendon Wing (LGI),
Beimont Grove, Leeds,
December 4.

From Dr Clare Highton and others

Sir, The East London and the City Health Authority faces large scale cuts in the service it provides because of its £18 million deficit. All non-emergency outpatient appointments are now put back until April 1997, waiting-list times for operations are to be extended to 18 months, the ability to refer to hospitals outside the district severely curtailed and many community programmes stopped.

We are convinced that our district does not receive a fair share of resources as the 1991 census grossly undercounted the population we serve. In 1994 the Audit Commission suggested inner-city areas need four times the resources to cope with the level of severe mental illness. In Hackney we have 40 patients diverted from prison to our medium-secure hospital, while most other districts nationwide have three or four. This costs a staggering £7 million a year, yet no money is diverted from the prison service. Our health authority is forced to consider putting some of these patients in hostels for mentally ill offenders, and we are very worried about the safety of this cost-cutting exercise.

We are expected to prevent general hospital admissions and look after patients discharged ever earlier, yet our community trusts are going to have to make health visitors and district nurses redundant. There are now 40 unfilled GP posts and many of us have had to close our lists. Over 200 of us wrote to the Secretary of State for Health on November 5 to express our concern, but have yet to receive the courtesy of an acknowledgement.

The announcement of a 4.5 per cent increase next year — our share of the overall increase in NHS funding — will not stop horrendous cuts in our district, and we will have to witness our patients suffering without the means to help them. We are left with a deep sense of injustice.

Yours faithfully,
CLARE HIGHTON
(Joint Chair, Hackney GP Forum),
G. TOBIAS
(Joint Chair, Hackney GP Forum),
KAMRIZ BOOMLA
(Chair, City & East London Local Medical Council),
P. CHANDRA
(Chair, Newham GP Forum),
P. JAKEMAN
(Chair, Tower Hamlets GP Forum),
c/o Tredgar House,
97-99 Bow Road, E3,
December 5.

Medical advertising

From Mr J. A. Fowler

Sir, I do not think the President of the Royal College of Surgeons of England has a lot to worry about concerning advertising (letter, November 26; see also letters, December 4).

We chartered physiotherapists have been allowed to advertise more freely, if not unbridled for many years, but practitioners still find that the best advert is the satisfied customer who will then recommend others. Having said this, it is not unknown for a prospective patient to pick out a chartered physiotherapist at random from Yellow Pages.

On the subject of referral, it would be a tremendous advantage if a physiotherapist could refer directly to a consultant for specialist opinion, especially if the GP had made the initial referral to the physiotherapist. I do not want in any way to undermine the authority of GPs, only to relieve some of their burden. This facility would be of particular value when treating, for example, injured athletes. I am sure it would be a privilege that would not be abused.

Yours faithfully,
TONY FOWLER
(Hon FRCGS, Hon FRCR)
Mr Wrexham, Denbighshire,
December 5.

Letters that are intended for publication should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — 0171-762 5046.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9KN Telephone 0171-762 5000

Heroes or villains: fishing for the truth on cormorants

From Mr Richard Eddis

Sir, Your report and leading article today highlight a serious problem for those of us living in the country who are not "predators" in relation to cormorants but are striving to preserve longstanding environmental amenities.

I have two old fish ponds which have been here for hundreds of years and, because of their depth, I have been advised that the only way I can keep them fresh and clean is to keep them stocked with fish. The cormorant — which, once it discovers a pond of this sort, quickly brings its friends and relations — will soon make this impossible.

Unlike the heron, which cannot fish out of its depth, the cormorant swims under water and works as a Hoover. There is no question of sharing your fish with it as suggested by the angling President of the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds: it is one or the other.

A licence to kill cannot be obtained unless it can be proved that the cormorants are causing financial loss, and the remedy suggested is the bird-scaring gun. There are two problems about this. First, it necessitates a firearms licence; secondly, the theory of it in relation to cormorants is that it will persuade them to return to the sea.

Unfortunately, most modern inland cormorants, bred in protected comfort, have never been near the sea and would be unlikely to be able to find it, even if they were unwise enough to wish to go there.

Yours etc,

RICHARD EDDIS,
Horkesley Hall,
Little Horkesley, Colchester, Essex,
December 5.

From the Editor of The Field

Sir, Mr Simon Barnes's defence of the cormorant ("A whiff of the ocean, a call from the wild", Features, December 6) states that "people involved in the killing sports always carry on as if they were the only people who under-

stand the countryside and its creation". Perhaps it is because field-sports followers are genuine countrymen who know that conservation is a complex issue.

There is no such thing in this country as the "wilderness" that Mr Barnes rhapsodises about. Every scrap of land is managed by man, and the bits with the highest biodiversity are managed for field sports, whether they be a grouse moor or a salmon river.

This involves choices, some of which are difficult. If you want ground-nesting birds on uplands, such as grouse and curlew, then you have to control predators such as foxes and crows. This is what the RSPB is doing at its Abernethy reserve. If you want salmon, then it may be necessary to limit the fish and birds that feed on their eggs and young, such as eels and cormorants.

Of course you may decide that Nature should be a free-for-all and that the most opportunistic predators should flourish in our man-made environment, no matter what the consequences to the prey species. Fine. But our countryside would be a far poorer place.

Yours faithfully,

J. P. YOUNG,
Editor, The Field,
King's Reach Tower,
Stamford Street, SE1,
December 6.

From the Chairman of the Welsh Regional Fisheries Advisory Committee and others

Sir, Last Thursday's coverage of the killing of cormorants in southern England may have left the impression that the majority of anglers support or condone such illegal actions.

Quite the reverse: as chairmen of our regional committees, we have received numerous representations from anglers and fishery owners, many of whom are also members of RSPB and other wildlife groups, dismayed at the message conveyed by the actions of this tiny group. Responsible anglers accept the need

to await the outcome of government-funded research into management measures which might be applicable to those fisheries where the balance between prey and predator has become seriously disturbed. Meanwhile, we urge all fishermen to speak out in opposition to those who take the law into their own hands in this way.

Yours faithfully,

PAT O'REILLY,
Chairman, Fisheries Advisory Committee, Welsh Region,
JAMES CARR (North-west),
JOHN FAWCETT (Yorkshire),
NICK GILES (Southern),
FRED JENNINGS (Midlands),
KEN PETTICAN (Anglian),
CHRIS ROTHWELL (Wessex),
PETER TENNANT (Northumbria),
ANNE VOSS-BARK (South-west),
Fiosheylg, Llaneych,
Boncath, Pembrokeshire,
December 8.

From the Director of the Salmon & Trout Association

Sir, This association condemns the illegal killing of cormorants, which is practised by a small group of mavericks with no support from the vast majority of reasonable anglers, and it has consistently advised members to apply to MAFF for a licence to shoot as an aid to scaring, not for the purposes of a cull.

Our aim is to establish a responsible management plan for cormorants, which would allow a healthy population to exist with a minimum impact on freshwater fish stocks. We believe that fish require just as much protection below the water surface as their avian predators above it. No management plan can be successful if viewed from one perspective only.

Yours faithfully,

CHRIS POUFARD,
Director,
Salmon & Trout Association,
Fishmongers' Hall,
London Bridge, EC4,
December 5.

Heavy lorries

From the Assistant Director of Transport 2000 Ltd

Sir, Mr David Green of the Freight Transport Association argues that allowing general use of 44-tonne lorries, as the Government proposed in a consultation paper yesterday, will mean substantially fewer HGVs on our roads (letter and report, December 3).

He could not be more wrong. Increasing the maximum lorry weight from the present 38 tonnes to 44 tonnes will act as a subsidy to the road haulage industry. Bulk goods (coal, quarry stone, chemicals) which it is economic to move by rail at present will shift to lorries. There will be thousands of new lorry trips — many through attractive towns like Devizes and Marlborough or national parks like the Peak District, and many more on already congested motorways.

Raising lorry weights will also lead firms to reorganise distribution, reduce the number of depots, and run the new heavier lorries further. This will increase lorry mileage yet again.

The Government says it wants to encourage greater use of rail for freight. If this is true, it should be taxing lorries to cover their full environmental and social cost (double what

they presently pay, according to the Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution figures, published in December 1994), not increasing lorry weights.

Yours faithfully,

LYNN SLOMAN,
Assistant Director,
Transport 2000 Ltd,
Walkden House,
10 Melton Street, NW1,
December 3.

From Lord Berkeley, Chairman of the Piggyback Consortium

Sir, The Freight Transport Association argues that 44-tonne lorries will mean lower road wear and less lorries since they would be able to carry heavier loads. That is only half the story.

Forty-four tonnes spread over six axles as proposed produces marginally less pressure per axle on the road surface than 40 tonnes over five axles (the maximum permitted from 1999), but road surfaces are damaged by the repetitive pounding of each axle — one more will only increase the problem. Longer bridges will also need strengthening because the whole lorry imposes four tonnes extra load.

As to higher weight limits meaning less lorries: this is true for heavy loads

such as steel or fuels, but a large proportion of lorries are full to maximum volume before reaching even the existing weight limit of 38 tonnes. Since the size of lorries is not to change, there is little advantage in the extra tonnes for many loads.

The English Welsh & Scottish Railway is reported as saying that it would lose up to 20 per cent (or 20 million tonnes) of its existing freight business — in particular, the heavy, bulk flows of coal or aggregates — as a result of the proposed change. This means more lorries, not less.

Forty-four-tonne lorries carrying containers are already allowed on tightly regulated journeys to and from railheads. The Department of Transport has stated that this will be extended to complete trailers — the "piggyback" method.

This provides the most cost-effective solution for putting the loads on the complete trailers of long-distance heavy lorries, whatever their tonnage, onto rail, and will leave the roads for lighter loads and shorter journeys.

Yours etc,

TONY BERKELEY (Chairman,
The Piggyback Consortium),
44 Home Road, SW11,
December 3.

Taxes and votes

From Councillor Harvey Cole

Sir, Amid the welter of claims and counter-claims about the effects of the Budget, it can be clearly shown that people securing the average expected pay increase of 4 per cent in the coming year will lose half of it to the Chancellor.

On an income increased to £10,000, 58.4 per cent of the increase will be swallowed up in direct and indirect taxes: where earnings reach £20,000, the Exchequer will absorb 54.5 per cent of the additional £50; and while those achieving £30,000 actually do best, they will still see their tax bills take 39 per cent of their extra £90.

At all income levels, people also need to be aware that the 7 per cent average increase in council tax, which Mr Clarke pretends will make good the shortfall in government funding of local services, is not enough to maintain them at current levels. The grim alternatives are: pay more or get less, and pay more and get less.

Yours etc,
HARVEY R. COLE (Deputy Leader,
Hamshire County Council),
9 Clifton Road,
Winchester, Hampshire.

Himalayan marmots

From Sir George Engle, QC

Sir, The idea — now confirmed — that Herodotus's "gold-digging ants" of the Himalayas were marmots (report, December 4) is not new.

A footnote in my Loeb Classical Library edition of Herodotus, published in 1921, reads: "It is suggested that the ants may have been really marmots. But even this does not seem to make the story much more probable."

Seeking to discredit Herodotus has always been a risky business.

Yours faithfully,
GEORGE ENGLE,
32 Wood Lane, Highgate, N6,
December 4.

From Mr D. H. Murdoch

Sir, Libby Purves (article, November 26) scorns the notion that tax cuts win elections and resents the assumption that "in the secrecy of the voting booth we are all for sale". Things may be worse than she supposes.

By way of an experiment, today I challenged a class of second-year students to reconsider the principle, last espoused under the Thatcher premiership in relation to the poll tax, of "no representation without taxation".

What, I asked whimsically, if the Government offered a substantial cut in income tax to anyone who agreed to relinquish the right to vote?

The majority of the class, without hesitation, claimed they would gladly disenfranchise themselves for a higher income. The minority, save one, were merely uncertain.

The exception was a visiting American student, the expression on whose face as she listened to the discussion suggested someone who had inadvertently wandered into a zoo.

Yours faithfully,

D. H. MURDOCH,
University of Leeds,
School of History,
Leeds, LS2 9JT,
November 29.

Season's greetings

From Rabbi Dr Jonathan Romain

Sir, As an example of how non-Christians are caught up in Christmas rites ("The twelve dilemmas of Christmas", December 3), I often send Christmas cards to Christian friends on the grounds that it may not be my festival, but I am happy to wish them well on theirs. However, last year I was surprised to receive a card myself, and even more so when it turned out to be from a Sikh friend.

Yours faithfully,

JONATHAN ROMAIN,
Maidenhead Synagogue,
9 Boyn Hill Avenue,
Maidenhead, RG2 3JN.

Gas safety

From Miss Ruth Clay

Sir, Your correspondent, Mr R. J. Simmons (December 2) who, as a pensioner, is concerned about the cost of British Gas's service charges, might like to know that I recently received a letter from a heating firm telling me that it had been nominated as my "British Gas Trading Ltd nominated Gas Care Agent" and that my "free Gas Care Safety Check" was now due and would be carried out by a fully qualified engineer.

A pleasant gentleman was on my doorstep at 8.15am on the appointed day, checked my three gas appliances and told me that under the Gas Care scheme such checks were available to those aged 60 or over on request.

Yours sincerely,

RUTH CLAY,
17 Princes Road, Richmond, Surrey,
December 2.

Who's to blame?

From Mrs S. E. Dennis

Sir, For children to sue their parents for bringing them into "this uncertain world" (letter, December 6; see also letter, December 3) would be to threaten the future of humankind, but surely there is now a case for teachers to sue parents for giving them such unsuitable children to teach?

Yours faithfully,

S. E. DENNIS,
29 Cromwell Avenue, Highgate, N6,
December 6.

From Mr Anthony Denny

Sir, Children may of course feel aggrieved at being brought into this uncertain world, but wise parents can avoid expensive lawsuits by settling out of court. It's called pocket money.

Yours faithfully,

ANTHONY DENNY,
1 Ellerslie Road, W12.

OBITUARIES

MARY LEAKEY

Mary Leakey, archaeologist and anthropologist, died in Nairobi yesterday aged 83. She was born on February 6, 1913.

Mary Leakey was the scientific anchor without which her husband, the anthropologist Louis Leakey, might have been dismissed as a mere controversialist with an exotic private life. For every vivid claim made by Louis about the origins of man, the supporting evidence tended to come from Mary, whose scrupulous scientific approach contrasted with his taste for publicity and enjoyment of personal battles. After his death in 1972, she enjoyed her most spectacular find, three trails of fossilised hominid footprints 3.6 million years old, which she discovered at Laetoli in Tanzania in 1978 and 1979. These showed that man's ancestors were already walking upright at a much earlier period than most anthropologists had believed. "At one point," wrote Mary Leakey of one of these tracks, "she stops, pauses, turns to the left to glance at some possible threat or irregularity, and then continues to the north. This motion, so intensely human, transcends time."

Born in London, she was the daughter of the landscape painter Erskine Nicol, who died when she was 13. Much of her childhood was spent in France, and it was the cave paintings of the Dordogne, to which her father introduced her, that kindled her interest in prehistory and her talent for drawing prehistoric artefacts. "I dug things up," she later explained, "I was curious, and then I liked to draw what I found. The first money I ever earned was for drawing stone tools."

After seeing some of her work, Louis Leakey asked her to illustrate his book *Adam's*



Louis and Mary Leakey in 1959, with the upper jaw of the skull of *Australopithecus (Zinjanthropus) boisei*

Ancestors and soon after she accompanied him to Olduvai Gorge in Tanzania. He was already married, with two small children, but after a painful divorce he married Mary in 1936 and they made their home in East Africa. He was not to prove the easiest of husbands.

Mary Douglas Leakey had gained archaeological experience at Hambury Fort in Devon and at Jaywick Sands in East Anglia. In 1937 she excavated Hyrax Hill near Nakuru in Kenya, an early Iron Age site, publishing the results in a long paper in the *Transactions of the Royal*

Society of South Africa. Her competence as an archaeologist was then widely recognised. Her next important work was at Olduvai Gorge, near Nairobi, an Acheulean site with spectacular concentrations of handaxes and fossil fauna. Here for the first time the actual living sites of early man were discovered.

In 1948 Mary found on Rusinga Island in Lake Victoria the skull of *Proconsul africanus*, a 16 million-year-old Miocene ape and at that time the only fossil ape skull known. This she painstakingly reconstructed from innumerable fragments. At Olduvai in

1959 she repeated the feat, piecing together her most spectacular find, the skull of *Australopithecus (Zinjanthropus) boisei* from more than 400 tiny fragments. Later, by the newly developed potassium-argon dating technique, "Zinj" was dated to 1.7 million years and was in fact the first australopithecine skull to be dated.

This discovery was the beginning of world renown for the Leakeys and, more important for them, financial support from the National Geographic Society of Washington for their work at Olduvai, which had previously

been done on the proverbial shoestring. It also proved the beginning of Mary's long association with Olduvai as her permanent home. Here she could devote her time to research and writing, and enjoy her love of solitude. She shared her life with a pack of dalmatian dogs and many other animals both tame and wild, which were her other great interest equalled only by stone tools.

The detailed plans of hominid living sites that she made were unique at that time and were published in her book, *Excavations in Beds I and II, volume three of the Olduvai*

Gorge monographs (1971). Apart from many papers in *Nature* and other scientific journals, her publications included a popular account of her life at Olduvai in *Olduvai Gorge: my search for early man* (1979).

Since her first visit to the United States in 1962 to receive the National Geographic Society's gold Hubbard medal jointly with her husband, Mary made yearly lecture tours of the US to raise money for research. She was awarded a number of medals, and honorary doctorates of science from the Universities of the Witwatersrand, Yale and Chicago, as well as a DLit from Oxford. She was a Fellow of the British Academy.

She loved small Cuban cigars and single malt whiskies, and preferred the outdoors to urban life. "Given the chance, I'd rather be in a tent than in a house," she once said. In the world of palaeoanthropology, where arguments often turn personal, she was a stickler for proper behaviour, publishing careful and detailed accounts of the evidence she had gathered. She only agreed to write an autobiography — *Disclosing the Past*, published in 1984 — after getting agreement that a book she had written on little-known rock paintings at Kandoa, Tanzania, would also be published.

In August of this year, after the Tanzanian Government and the Gezy Conservation Institute had finally decided to protect the hominid footprints beneath a high-tech synthetic covering, Mary Leakey travelled to Laetoli for a final look at her great discovery.

She is survived by her sons Jonathan, Richard and Philip. Richard Leakey followed his parents into palaeontology, becoming well-known for his researches east of Lake Turkana in Kenya. He became active in Kenyan politics and is the secretary general of the opposition Safina Party.

ALAIN POHER

Alain Poher, President of the French Senate, 1968-92, died in Paris yesterday aged 87. He was born at Ablon-sur-Seine on April 17, 1909.

AS PRESIDENT of the Upper House of the French parliament for 24 years, it twice fell to Alain Poher to stand in as acting head of state. On the first occasion he became interim President of the French Republic following the resignation of Charles de Gaulle in April 1969, after the rejection by the public of his referendum proposals for regional and Senate reforms. Poher's second short tenure of the office was brought about by the death of Georges Pompidou in 1974.

The first occasion was the more important both personally and politically for Poher since it encouraged him to run for the office himself in the presidential election which followed de Gaulle's departure. That is not to say that he was a strongly ambitious man. An unassuming figure who had held office under the Fourth Republic, he had until that point nursed no dreams of high office.

But his candidature as a "man of conciliation" — his own description of himself — well suited the temper of a nation which seemed to be running strongly against Gaullism.

An ardent European, he had been president of the European Assembly and, although a man of somewhat conservative instincts, had, in the context of the times, a strong appeal for the liberal vote. In the event it was not to be, and he was well beaten by the "new-look" moderate Gaullism of Georges Pompidou in the second round run-off. When the latter died in office in 1974, Poher yet again took the reins of the French State, until fresh elections brought Valéry Giscard d'Estaing to the Elysée Palace.

Alain Emile Louis Marie Poher was trained as a mining engineer but later changed course and acquired a doctorate in law and a diploma from the Ecole des Sciences Politiques. He began his political career in the Ministry of Finance and during the war was head of its Resistance group.

After the war he served as head of social services in the Finance Ministry and was for a few months in 1946 chief of cabinet to the Finance Minister Robert Schuman, of whom he was a close friend. Under this tireless mentor and Euro-

pean his career was marked by a devotion to the cause of a united Europe.

In 1948 he entered the Senate as a member of the Catholic Mouvement Républicain Populaire and held office in several of the governments of the Fourth Republic. During 1948 he was successively Secretary of State for Finance and for the Budget before being appointed Commissioner for German and Austrian Affairs (1948-53) which he followed by two years as French delegate to the international authority of the Ruhr. He represented the French Senate in the Strasbourg assembly and subsequently led the Christian Democrat group in the European Parliament, of which he was President from 1966 to 1969. He was elected President of the Senate in 1968.

Nevertheless his name was scarcely known to the French public before de Gaulle's resignation in April 1969 thrust him into the limelight as acting head of state. While France tried to acclimatise itself to life after de Gaulle, Poher acted incisively to organise new elections. One of his first acts as President was to summon the director of the state-controlled radio and television network ORTF — well suited the temper of a nation which seemed to be running strongly against Gaullism.

His own candidature against the Gaullist Georges Pompidou had some encouragement in socialist circles. But it typified the essential lack of homogeneity of the moderate Left and at a crucial moment Poher was deserted by three important centre party leaders as well as by the popular veteran anti-Gaullist conservative Antoine Pinay. After the first round of voting, which eliminated the Communist Jacques Duclos, a number of Poher's supporters advised him to stand down to allow a straight fight between Duclos and the new "liberal" Gaullism of Pompidou. But he refused and in the upshot went down by eight million votes to Pompidou's 11 million. He was not tempted to repeat the experiment at the presidential contest which followed Pompidou's death, in April 1974, contenting himself with a second short term as interim President.

He leaves his widow and daughter.



Poher casting his vote in the second round of the presidential election in June 1969

PROFESSOR BRUCE PATTISON



Bruce Pattison, Professor of Education, London University Institute of Education, 1948-76, died on November 19 aged 88. He was born on November 13, 1908.

MANY students throughout the Third World are indebted to Bruce Pattison, who ran the London University Institute's Teaching English as a Foreign Language (TEFL) department

for 28 years. A whole generation of teachers, many of them British expatriates, passed through the Institute's headquarters in Bloomsbury before finding themselves posted to schools and colleges around the globe.

Pattison was also a leading pioneer of the so-called Special Relations programme which nursed the fledgling higher education institutions in Britain's colonies, where students read for the external London

degree. He travelled himself extensively throughout Africa and the West Indies ensuring that the quality of instruction was up to standard.

The scheme gradually came to an end as one British colony after another won independence and their colleges became universities in their own right — awarding their own degrees. But the influence of Pattison and his colleagues continued even after this process took place.

Until the late 1960s his TEFL students were sent for practical teaching experience to rural Wales — the only region left in this country where some children did not use English as their first language. By 1970, however, the spread of television had forced Pattison to look further afield — and to send his charges to practise in Malta instead.

Yet although it was his work at the institute for which Pattison will be chiefly remembered, he enjoyed a considerable reputation as a scholar in his own right.

Born in Gateshead, he went to the local grammar school before crossing the Tyne to read English at King's College (then known as Armstrong College), Newcastle upon Tyne. He narrowly missed a first, but then went to Fitzwilliam House, Cambridge, to study for his PhD under the supervision of the noted musicologist Edward Dent.

His feeling for music, which rivalled his love of English literature, was reflected by his thesis *Poetry and Music of the English Renaissance*. Published separately after the war, it ran into two editions and is still regarded as a standard text for students of the period.

Pattison spent the next three years as a schoolmaster, teaching at Mellish School, Nottingham, 1933-35, and at Hymers College, Hull, for the next 12 months. In 1936, however, he moved to University College London as an English lecturer.

Apart from the war years, when he was seconded to Whitehall, first to the Board of Trade then to the Ministry of Supply (where he built up an expertise in timber), he remained at University College for 12 years. He was made

Reader in English in 1948, but left in the same year to take up his professorial chair at the London University Institute of Education.

Pattison became director of the Extramural Department's Summer School of English and was for many years chairman of its development committee. He also belonged to the advisory panel for the General Medical Council's professional and linguistic board, which examines the English proficiency of foreign doctors coming to work in Britain.

He served on a number of committees and was at one time a governor and trustee of the Central Foundation Schools of London. He was also made a Freeman of the City of London.

A tall, balding man with considerable presence, Bruce Pattison endeared himself to those who worked under him. He led through example, never seeing himself as more than a member of the team. He relaxed by playing chess and indulging his love of music on his own grand piano. An active Liberal as an undergraduate, he retained to the end his support for the Liberal Democrats.

After retiring from the institute 20 years ago he wrote up the story of the Special Relations programme, which was published by London University in 1984. His retirement was marred, however, by the death of his wife Dorothy only three years after he had left the institute.

Another Tynesider from Gateshead, whom he met while they were reading English together at Newcastle, she died after a long painful battle against spinal cancer. They had no children and Bruce Pattison, who nursed her devotedly, never fully got over his loss.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE Annual General Meeting of the Council for the Study of the History of the City of London will be held at the Assembly Hall at 11.00 am on Wednesday 11th December at 11.00 am. Tel: 0171 736 0000.

A LEGACY MEANS A LOT. Help to help the needy. Tel: 0171 736 0000.

COURT & SOCIAL

FORGETTING MARRIAGES AND MARRIAGES. Over the Christmas period the following deadline will apply:

Notice to appear on: Friday December 20, Saturday December 21, Monday December 23, Tuesday December 24, Thursday December 26, Friday December 27, Saturday December 28, and Monday December 30. Tel: 0171 782 7347. Fax: 0171 782 7725.

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Birmingham side finds goals from an unlikely source



THE combination of Ian Wright and Elan Ekoku, both goal scorers in form, has given a Birmingham resident the weekly prize in *The Times* Interactive Team Football game. Mr R. Crook wins the £250 prize, and is well in contention in the overall race for £50,000 — he is in equal 41st place this week.

But he will do well to catch John Hunt, of Taunton, the long-term leader, whose various teams continue to dominate the field. Eight of his teams are in the leading 250 ITF selectors, with six of them in the top twenty.

Mr Crook's team is:

Goalkeeper
M Oakes (Aston Villa)

Full backs
I Nolan (Sheffield Wed)
M Perry (Dundee Utd)

Central defenders
U Ehlogu (Aston Villa)
S Pressley (Dundee Utd)

Midfield players
P Berger (Liverpool)
M Gayle (Wimbledon)
S McManaman (Liverpool)
D Windass (Aberdeen)

Strikers
E Ekoku (Wimbledon)
I Wright (Arsenal)

Manager
R Aiken (Aberdeen)



Ekoku acknowledges the applause for his second goal against Sunderland. His recent form demands ITF consideration



You can use the ITF transfer system to change up to two players each week and to adjust your team if one of your players is actually transferred out of the FA Carling Premiership or Bell's Scottish League premier division, but you can make transfers only by telephone. Using a Touch-tone (DTMF) telephone (most push-button telephones with a * and a hash key are Touch-tone), call the 0891 866 968 line during the times given. From outside the United Kingdom, call 0044 990 200 668.

When making a transfer, you must ensure that the team does not contain more than two individuals (two players or one player and a manager) from the same club.

If you are lagging behind the leading team selectors, the transfer system will be an appealing option to you in the chase for the prizes — the overall £50,000, monthly £1,000 or weekly £250.

□ All Interactive Team Football transfer queries should be directed to 0171-757 7016. All other inquiries can be made on 01532 483 122.

THIS WEEK'S TRANSFERS			
IN		OUT	
10502 ...	Stewart Kerr	10502 ...	Stewart Kerr
10503 ...	Frank Gooch	10503 ...	Frank Gooch
12502 ...	Matt Clarke	12502 ...	Matt Clarke
12503 ...	Spain Baaden	12503 ...	Spain Baaden
52504 ...	Stefan Ivanov	52504 ...	Stefan Ivanov
30507 ...	Jakob Kjaer	30507 ...	Jakob Kjaer
61401 ...	Alan Tait	61401 ...	Alan Tait
LOANED PLAYERS			
Q Wessell (Derby to Manchester City, one week); T Wright (Nottingham Forest to Reading, four weeks); R van der Laan (Derby to Wolverhampton, one week); R Forster (West Ham to Bournemouth, one month); J Shandor (Sheffield Wednesday to Bolton, one week); G Preece (Chelsea to Queens Park Rangers, two weeks); M Shaw (Chelsea to Stoke, two weeks); D Kerslake (Tottenham to Swindon, two weeks); T Cooke (Manchester United to Birmingham, three weeks); P Thistle (Southampton to Huddersfield, three weeks); J Bailey (Aston Villa to Southend, four weeks); P Simpson (Derby to Sheffield United, four weeks).	Loan periods subject to fluctuation		

HOW THE SCORING SYSTEM WORKS IN ITF			
All 1996-7 matches in the FA Carling Premiership, FA Cup, Bell's Scottish League premier division and Tynes Scottish Cup from August 17 count for points. Penalty shootouts do not count but results decided in this way will count for managers.			
POINTS SCORED		POINTS DEDUCTED	
Goalkeeper	4pts	Goalkeeper	1pt
Keeps clean sheet*	3pts	Concedes goal	1pt
Saves penalty	1pt	Full back/central defender	1pt
Full back/central defender	3pts	Concedes goal	1pt
Keeps clean sheet*	3pts	Concedes goal	1pt
Saves penalty	1pt	All players	3pts
Midfield player	1pt	Start off	1pt
Keeps clean sheet*	3pts	Team loss	1pt
Saves goal	1pt		

80 FOOTBALL GAMES TO BE WON



Waddingtons
The Times Interactive Team Football and Waddingtons are giving ITF players a chance to win one of 40 Subbuteo or The Manager games. The FA Premier League edition of Subbuteo includes two teams, Mitre balls, referee and linesmen, green strips, line flags, goals, scoreboard, pitch cloth and a miniature silver and gold replica trophy. The Manager, created by former England soccer coach Terry Venables, is a football business game which casts players as managers of Premiership football clubs. This is a fun boardgame for two to six players with questions on entertainment, general knowledge and sport suitable for all the family.

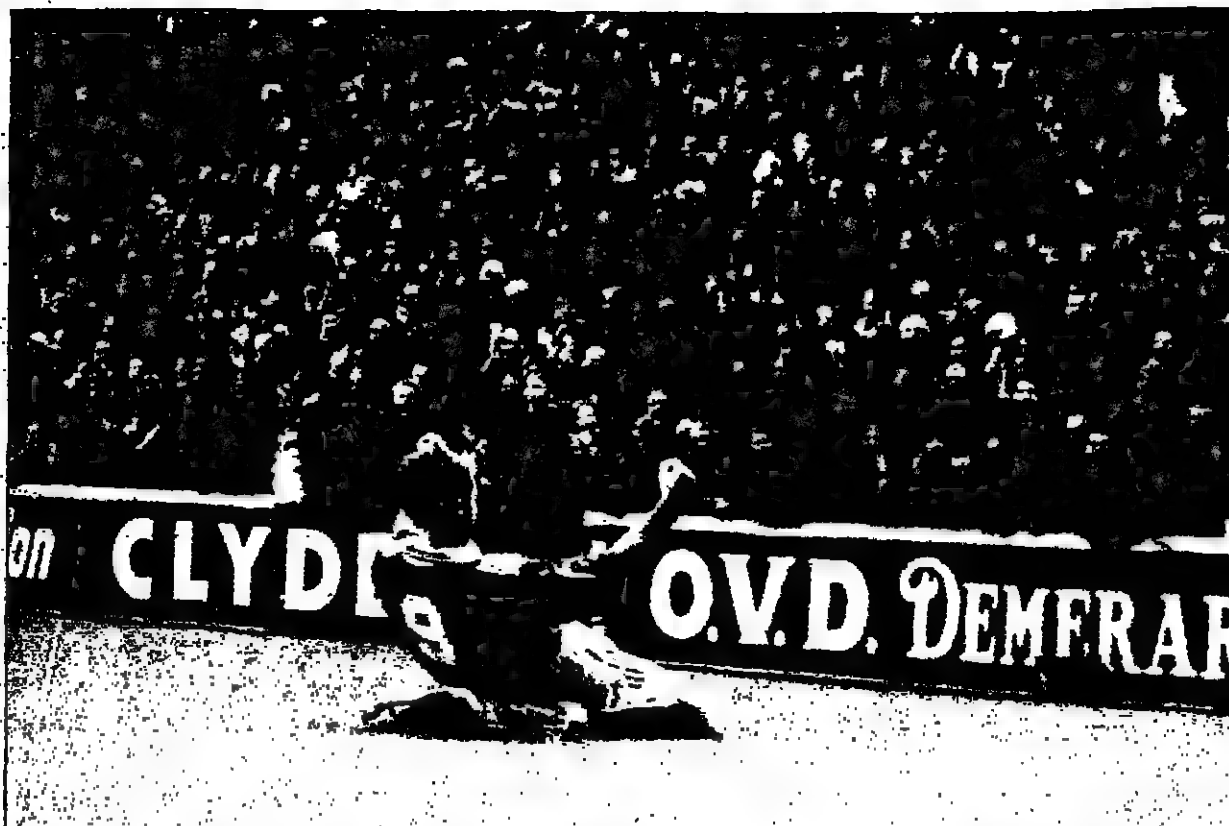
HOW TO ENTER
To enter (only players of The Times ITF game) send your name, your ITF team name, ITF pin number and the answer to the question below, on a postcard or the back of a sealed envelope to: *The Times/Waddingtons*, Comp. 16 Whitefriars St, London EC8S 2NG. Closing date: Friday, January 31, 1997. Winners will be drawn at random. Normal TNL rules apply. Of which country is Terry Venables now the coach?

HOW TO MAKE A TRANSFER IN ITF			
Call 0891 866 968			
If telephoning from outside the United Kingdom call 0044 990 200 668.			
You may make transfers only by telephone using a Touch-tone (DTMF) telephone (most push-button telephones with a * and a hash key are Touch-tone). You will need your ten-digit selector PIN, which you will have to tap in, not speak. Follow the simple instructions and tap in the five-digit codes of the players you are transferring.			
You may only make transfers in one team per telephone call. If you have entered two teams and want to make transfers in both, you must make two separate calls.			
You may transfer two (but no more than two) individuals (two players or one player and a manager) during a transfer week. A player being transferred out must be replaced by one from the same category and you must keep to the team format of a goalkeeper, two full backs, two central defenders, four midfield players, two strikers and a manager. You must not exceed the £25 million budget and have no more than two individuals from the same club. Incorrect transfers will be rejected and your team will remain in its previous form.			
The transfer week runs from 00.01 on Tuesday to midnight the following Monday. Transfers made before noon each day will become effective immediately. Transfers made after noon will become effective for matches played after noon on the following day.			
Your new player only starts to score points for you when his transfer is registered. The current score of the player transferred out remains part of your team score but he then ceases to score for you.			
If a player or manager moves teams during the season, it may affect the composition of your team. You must adjust your team by using the transfer system to avoid missing out on points.			
Calls will be charged at 45p per minute, 50p per minute at other times. Calls made from public telephones may cost approximately twice as much.			

THE LEADING 250 ENTRIES IN THE TIMES INTERACTIVE TEAM FOOTBALL			
FIND OUT HOW YOUR TEAM IS DOING			
Pos	Team	(Player's name)	Pts
1	John Hunt Taunton D	(J Hunt)	322
2	John Hunt Taunton F	(J Hunt)	313
3	Sophia And Sam	(G Foster)	312
4	John Hunt Taunton H	(J Hunt)	311
5	Daggers	(V Cox)	301
6	Purple Rain	(B Gohil)	300
7	John Hunt Taunton E	(J Hunt)	299
8	Enter The Stand	(A Lane)	298
9	Georgians	(P Dorian)	297
10	North's Ark	(S Howes)	296
11	Brake's Team	(J Hunt)	294
11	Nobby 4	(J Brown)	294
11	Nobby 33	(J Brown)	294
15	Styford	(A Lane)	293
16	James Boys Three	(M Jones)	291
17	It's About Revenge C	(R Gohil)	288
17	Raj Is Back To Kill	(R Gohil)	288
18	Raj Is Back To Kill	(R Gohil)	287
18	John Hunt Taunton C	(K Booth)	286
21	Schools For Goals	(K Booth)	285
22	Higg's Rowers	(A Riggs)	285
22	Inte The Pub	(M Ward)	284
24	NST Monkstone	(J Staszewicz)	284
25	Nobby 5	(J Brown)	283
25	Nobby 6	(J Brown)	283
27	Tullip's Tops	(D Tulip)	281
28	PJ Thistle	(R Newbould)	280
28	Subwith Utd 5	(M Larcombe)	280
29	Hull Red Devils	(G Foster)	279
31	James Boys 1	(P Brown)	278
32	James Boys 2	(P Brown)	277
33	James Boys 3	(A Lane)	276
33	James Boys 4	(G Wiles)	276
35	JS August Monthly 1	(J Swires)	275
35	Bad Time Boys	(R Crook)	275
35	James Boys 5	(R Crook)	275
35	Raj Is Back To Kill	(M Jones)	275
35	James Boys 2	(R Gohil)	275
41	Crooky Boys	(R Crook)	274
41	A2	(K Farhat)	274
41	China Castle	(G Gohil)	274
43	Aldecaro Villa	(M Jukes)	273
43	AB 4	(A Boyland)	273
43	Enter The Wall	(M Ward)	272
43	Enter The Bn	(M Ward)	272
43	Nomads	(N Brown)	271
43	Orville Classics	(J Bradshaw)	271
43	JS August Monthly 2	(J Swires)	271
43	Clover Vale	(N Enright)	271
43	Xpist Miceles	(M Jackson)	271
43	Def Con 3	(M Pack)	271
43	The Denizens	(C Vevens)	271
43	Greenland Castle	(G McGovern)	270
43	Clive From Down Under	(K James)	270
43	Sky Rockets	(K Farhat)	270
43	Raj Is Back To Kill	(J Gohil)	269
43	Le Boetesters	(J Roebuck)	269
43	Kingsbury Th 1	(D F King)	269
43	Carmont Loyol	(B Ford)	268
43	Mem Machine	(P Ford)	267
43	1st Elft	(K J Burns)	268
43	Nobby 11	(J Brown)	267
43	Nobby 12	(J Brown)	267
43	Northwood XI	(S Mullaney)	267
43	Team 4	(A Lane)	267
43	12 Angry Men	(D Gohil)	267
43	Nobby 23	(J Brown)	266
43	Nobby 24	(J Brown)	266
43	Nobby 25	(J Brown)	266
43	Nobby 26	(J Brown)	266
43	Nobby 27	(J Brown)	266
43	Nobby 28	(J Brown)	266
43	Nobby 29	(J Brown)	266
43	Nobby 30	(J Brown)	266
43	Nobby 31	(J Brown)	266
43	Nobby 32	(J Brown)	266
43	Nobby 33	(J Brown)	266
43	Nobby 34	(J Brown)	266
43	Nobby 35	(J Brown)	266
43	Nobby 36	(J Brown)	266
43	Nobby 37	(J Brown)	266
43	Nobby 38	(J Brown)	266
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43	Nobby 52	(J Brown)	266
43	Nobby 53	(J Brown)	266
43	Nobby 54	(J Brown)	266
43	Nobby 55	(J Brown)	266
43	Nobby 56	(J Brown)	266
43	Nobby 57	(J Brown)	266
43	Nobby 58	(J Brown)	266
43	Nobby 59	(J Brown)	266
43	Nobby 60	(J Brown)	266
43	Nobby 61	(J Brown)	266
43	Nobby 62	(J Brown)	266
43	Nobby 63	(J Brown)	266
43	Nobby 64	(J Brown)	266
43	Nobby 65	(J Brown)	266
43	Nobby 66	(J Brown)	266
43	Nobby 67	(J Brown)	266
43	Nobby 68	(J Brown)	266
43	Nobby 69	(J Brown)	266
43	Nobby 70	(J Brown)	266
43	Nobby 71	(J Brown)	266
43	Nobby 72	(J Brown)	266
43	Nobby 73	(J Brown)	266
43	Nobby 74	(J Brown)	266
43	Nobby 75	(J Brown)	266
43	Nobby 76	(J Brown)	266
43	Nobby 77	(J Brown)	266
43	Nobby 78	(J Brown)	266
43	Nobby 79	(J Brown)	266
43	Nobby 80	(J Brown)	266
43	Nobby 81	(J Brown)	266
43	Nobby 82	(J Brown)	266
43	Nobby 83	(J Brown)	266
43	Nobby 84	(J Brown)	266
43	Nobby 85	(J Brown)	266
43	Nobby 86	(J Brown)	266
43	Nobby 87	(J Brown)	266
43	Nobby 88	(J Brown)	266
43	Nobby 89	(J Brown)	266
43	Nobby 90	(J Brown)	266
43	Nobby 91	(J Brown)	266
43	Nobby 92	(J Brown)	266
43	Nobby 93	(J Brown)	266
43	Nobby 94	(J Brown)	266
43	Nobby 95	(J Brown)	266
43	Nobby 96	(J Brown)	266
43	Nobby 97	(J Brown)	266
43	Nobby 98	(J Brown)	266
43	Nobby 99	(J Brown)	266
43	Nobby 100	(J Brown)	266

The ITF players, their points and their values if you are considering the transfer option

Code				
10101	M Watt	Aberdeen	1.50	0 -3
10102	N Walker	Aberdeen	1.00	-3 -2
10201	D Seaman	Arsenal	5.00	0 +27
10202	V Bartram	Arsenal	0.75	0 0
10203	J Lukic	Arsenal	0.75	-4 -14
10301	M Bosnich	Aston Villa	3.50	0 +1
10302	M Oakes	Aston Villa	1.00	+10 +19
10401	T Flowers	Blackburn Rovers	3.00	-1 -19
10402	S Green	Blackburn Rovers	2.00	0 0
10501	G Marshall	Blackburn Rovers	3.50	0 -1
10601	D Kharin	Chelsea	2.50	0 +10
10602	K Hitchcock	Chelsea	2.00	0 +20
10701	S Ogrizovic	Coventry City	1.50	-3 -19
10702	J Folan	Coventry City	0.50	0 0
10801	M Taylor	Derby County	1.00	0 0
10802	R Houtt	Derby County	1.00	-3 -10
10901	A Maxwell	Dundee United	0.50	0 +4
10902	L Key	Dundee United	0.50	0 +10
11001	I Westwater	Durham City	0.50	-5 -24
11101	N Southall	Everton	2.50	-3 -9
11102	P Gerrard	Everton	2.50	0 +1
11201	G Rousset	Hearts	2.00	+5 -4
11301	J Leighton	Hibernian	1.50	-7 -3
11401	D Lekovic	Kilmarnock	1.00	0 -28
11501	M Beesley	Leeds United	1.50	0 0
11502	P Evans	Leeds United	0.25	0 0
11503	N Martyn	Leeds United	2.50	+5 +4
11601	K Poole	Leicester City	1.00	0 -6
11602	K Koller	Leicester City	1.00	-4 -6
11701	D James	Liverpool	5.00	+4 +12
11702	A Warner	Liverpool	0.50	0 0
11801	P Schmeichel	Manchester United	6.00	-4 -16
11802	R van der Gouw	Manchester United	1.00	0 +5
11901	G Walsh	Middlesbrough	1.50	+2 -6
11902	A Miller	Middlesbrough	1.50	0 -23
12001	S Howie	Motherwell	1.50	+1 -19
12101	S Hislop	Newcastle United	4.00	0 -3
12102	P Smeek	Newcastle United	3.00	0 0
12201	M Croxall	Nottingham Forest	2.50	0 -28
12202	A Fettes	Nottingham Forest	0.75	0 0
12203	T Wright	Nottingham Forest	0.75	0 0
12301	S Thomson	Raith Rovers	0.50	+5 -14
12401	A Goran	Rangers	5.00	+5 +19
12501	K Pressman	Sheffield Wednesday	2.00	+5 +5
12502	D Bessant	Sheffield Wednesday	1.00	-6 -16
12601	N Moss	Sheff Wednesday	0.25	0 -2
12603	C Woods	Sheff Wednesday	1.50	0 +19
12702	L Perez	Sunderland	0.50	-5 -13
11803	A Cotton	Sunderland	1.00	0 +9
12801	I Walker	Tottenham Hotspur	3.50	-4 +11
12901	L Mladkovic	West Ham United	2.00	-6 -16
12902	S Mautone	West Ham United	0.50	0 +5
13001	N Sullivan	Wimbledon	1.00	-1 -7
13002	P Hoeld	Wimbledon	1.00	0 0



McCoist celebrates his second goal against Hibernian — which set a Scottish post-war record. But did you pick him?

Code	Name	Team	Pos	Value	Net Ch
30305	R Schmeichel	Aston Villa	1.00	+8 +13	
30401	C Hendry	Blackburn Rovers	4.00	0 +1	
30402	I Pearce	Blackburn Rovers	2.50	0 0	
30403	C Coleman	Blackburn Rovers	2.50	0 -3	
30404	B Sneyd	Blackburn Rovers	0.50	0 +2	
30501	T Boyd	Celtic	3.00	-1 +10	
30502	M Mackay	Celtic	1.50	-1 +2	
30503	A Stubbs	Celtic	3.50	0 +9	
30504	B O'Neill	Celtic	3.00	0 +1	
30601	M Duberry	Chelsea	2.50	-1 -5	
30602	F Labovitz	Chelsea	2.50	-1 +13	
30603	F Stachnir	Chelsea	2.00	0 0	
30604	D Lee	Chelsea	2.00	0 +3	
30605	A Myers	Chelsea	1.50	0 +6	
30606	E Johnson	Chelsea	1.50	0 +10	
30607	J Kjoelberg	Chelsea	0.50	0 0	
30701	L Daise	Coventry City	2.00	-1 0	
30702	R Shaw	Coventry City	1.50	-1 -1	
30801	I Stacey	Derby County	2.50	-2 -4	
30802	D Watson	Derby County	1.00	0 0	
30803	M McGrath	Derby County	2.50	-1 +1	
30804	J Laurson	Derby County	1.00	-1 +6	
30805	M Carson	Derby County	0.50	-1 -1	
30901	S Pressley	Dundee United	1.00	+4 +10	
31001	M Miller	Durfermline	0.75	+4 0	
31002	I Den Bieman	Durfermline	0.75	0 -7	
31101	D Unsworth	Everton	2.50	-1 +0	
31102	D Watson	Everton	2.50	-1 +2	
31103	S Short	Everton	2.00	0 +9	
31201	D McPherson	Hearts	1.00	0 +8	
31202	P Ritchie	Hearts	1.00	+4 +18	
31301	J McLaughlin	Hibernian	0.50	0 -4	
31302	B Welch	Hibernian	0.75	0 +9	
31303	G Hunter	Hibernian	0.50	-3 -8	
31401	M Reilly	Kilmarnock	1.00	-1 -8	
31402	R Montgomery	Kilmarnock	0.75	-1 -8	
31501	D Wetherall	Leeds United	2.50	+4 +15	
31502	R Johnson	Leeds United	1.00	0 +2	
31503	L Radaba	Leeds United	1.00	+4 +8	
31504	J Pemberton	Leeds United	0.50	0 -4	
31601	S Walsh	Leicester City	1.00	0 +8	
31602	J Watts	Leicester City	1.00	0 +9	
31603	P Kasmark	Leicester City	0.50	0 0	
31701	S Prior	Leicester City	1.00	+4 +7	
31702	P Babb	Liverpool	3.50	+3 +13	
31703	J Scallan	Liverpool	3.50	0 0	
31704	M Wright	Liverpool	3.50	+4 +15	
31705	N Ruddock	Liverpool	3.00	+4 +11	
31706	D Matteo	Liverpool	1.00	0 +14	
31801	G Pallister	Manchester United	3.50	-1 +1	
31802	D May	Manchester United	3.00	-1 +10	
31803	R Johnson	Manchester United	2.50	-1 +10	
31901	N Pearson	Middlesbrough	1.50	0 -9	
31902	S Vickers	Middlesbrough	1.50	0 -7	
31903	D Whyte	Middlesbrough	1.50	-2 -9	
31904	P Whelan	Middlesbrough	0.75	0 +3	
32001	B Martin	Motherwell	0.75	0 -3	
32002	M van der Gaag	Motherwell	0.75	0 +11	
32101	P Albert	Newcastle United	4.50	0 +7	
32102	S Howie	Newcastle United	3.00	0 +7	
32103	D Pearce	Newcastle United	3.00	0 +10	
32201	C Cooper	Nottingham Forest	3.00	0 -4	
32202	S Chettle	Nottingham Forest	2.50	0 -2	
32203	A Blatherwick	Nottingham Forest	1.00	0 -3	
32301	S Dennis	Raith Rovers	3.50	-1 +19	
32302	R Gough	Rangers	3.50	+2 +26	
32401	A McLaren	Rangers	3.00	0 0	
32402	J Bjorklund	Rangers	3.50	0 +17	
32403	G Peirce	Rangers	2.50	0 +14	
32501	J Newson	Sheffield Wednesday	2.00	0 +8	
32502	D Walker	Sheffield Wednesday	1.50	+4 +17	
32503	P Morgan	Sheffield Wednesday	0.25	0 0	
32601	K Monkou	Southampton	1.50	-1 -14	
32602	A Neilson	Southampton	1.00	0 -2	
32603	R Dryden	Southampton	0.50	-2 -3	
32604	C Lundehvam	Southampton	0.50	-4 -11	
32701	U van Gohel	Sunderland	1.00	-3 -17	
32702	A McVittie	Sunderland	1.00	-2 +3	
32703	R Ord	Sunderland	0.50	-2 +10	
32801	S Campbell	Tottenham Hotspur	2.50	-1 +19	
32802	C Calderwood	Tottenham Hotspur	2.50	-2 +16	
32803	G Mabbutt	Tottenham Hotspur	2.00	0 0	
32804	K Scott	Tottenham Hotspur	0.50	0 0	
32901	S Johnson	Tottenham Hotspur	0.50	0 -3	
32902	S Birt	West Ham United	2.50	-2 +5	
32903	M Rippey	West Ham United	2.50	-2 +5	
32904	S Potts	West Ham United	2.00	-1 -3	
32905	R Hall	West Ham United	1.50	0 0	
32906	R Ferdinand	West Ham United	0.50	0 0	
33001	A Pearce	Wimbledon	1.00	0 0	
33002	A Pearce	Wimbledon	0.75	0 0	
33003	D Blackwell	Wimbledon	0.50	0 +4	
33004	M McAllister	Wimbledon	0.50	0 +12	
33005	S Fitzgerald	Wimbledon	0.25	0 0	
40101	D Windass	Aberdeen	3.00	+3 +18	
40102	S Glass	Aberdeen	3.00	0 +7	
40103	P Bernard	Aberdeen	2.50	0 +1	
40104	I Kirilov	Aberdeen	2.50	+1 +17	
40105	T Tzvetanov	Aberdeen	4.50	+3 +19	
40201	D Platt	Arsenal	4.00	+4 +17	
40202	P Mannion	Arsenal	2.00	0 +9	
40203	R Parfitt	Arsenal	1.50	0 0	
40204	G Halder	Arsenal	0.50	0 0	
40205	S Setley	Arsenal	0.50	0 +3	
40206	P Vieira	Arsenal	3.00	+2 +13	
40207	R Garcia	Arsenal	2.00	0 0	
40301	M Draper	Aston Villa	4.00	+3 +15	
40302	A Townsend	Aston Villa	2.50	+6 +25	
40303	I Taylor	Aston Villa	2.50	+3 +16	
40304	G Farrelly	Aston Villa	1.00	0 0	
40305	S Currie	Blackburn Rovers	4.00	+1 +15	
40401	J Wilcock	Blackburn Rovers	3.50	+1 +12	
40402	L Schimke	Blackburn Rovers	2.50	0 +10	
40403	G Filloft	Blackburn Rovers	2.50	+1 +3	
40404	W McInlay	Blackburn Rovers	2.50	+1 +3	
40405	T Sherwood	Blackburn Rovers	1.50	0 +3	
40406	P Wainwright	Blackburn Rovers	1.50	0 +4	
40407	G Donis	Blackburn Rovers	1.00	0 +5	
40408	S Ripley	Blackburn Rovers	1.00	0 +5	
40409	M Holmes	Blackburn Rovers	0.75	0 0	
40501	A Thom	Celtic	3.00	0 0	
40502	A Thom	Celtic	2.50	+1 +19	
40503	S Donnelly	Celtic	2.50	+1 +15	
40504	P Grant	Celtic	1.50	+1 +15	
40505	P Di Camio	Celtic	3.00	0 +18	
40601	R Gullit	Chelsea	3.50	+1 +4	
40602	D Wane	Chelsea	3.00	0 +16	
40603	G Pasco	Chelsea	2.50	0 0	
40604	A Sneyd	Chelsea	2.00	+1 +14	
40605	E Newton	Chelsea	2.00	+1 +4	
40606	D Rostace	Chelsea	0.50	0 0	
40607	R Di Matteo	Chelsea	3.00	0 +25	
40608	J Morris	Chelsea	2.00	0 0	
40701	J Salako	Coventry City	2.50	+1 +21	
40702	G McAllister	Coventry City	5.50	+1 +22	
40703	E Smith	Coventry City	2.00	+1 +1	
40704	K Richardson	Coventry City	1.50	0 +10	
40705	P Williams	Coventry City	1.50	+1 +10	
40706	M Isala	Coventry City	0.50	0 0	
40707	W Boland	Coventry City	0.25	0 0	
40708	M O'Neill	Coventry City	1.50	0 +1	
40801	A Asanovic	Derby County	2.00	+1 +22	
40802	R van der Laan	Derby County	1.50	0 +2	
40803	D Powell	Derby County	1.00	+3 +15	
40804	S Flynn	Derby County	0.75	0 +8	
40805	G Rowett	Derby County	0.50	+1 +15	
40806	C Duff	Derby County	1.50	0 +17	
40807	D Cunningham	Derby County	0.75	+1 +15	
40808	R Winters	Durfermline	1.50	+2 +21	
40809	G Johnson	Durfermline	1.00	0 0	
40810	J McNally	Durfermline	0.75	0 +4	
40811	D Bowman	Durfermline	0.75	+2 +12	
40812	A Bennaker	Durfermline	0.50	0 +2	
40813	H French	Durfermline	1.00	+1 +17	
40814	C Robertson	Durfermline	1.00	+1 +13	
40815	A Smith	Durfermline	0.75	+1 +16	
40816	D Fleming	Durfermline	0.50	0 +10	
40817	A Kanchelakis	Everton	7.00	+3 +27	
40818	G Speed	Everton	4.00	+1 +36	
40819	J Eborall	Everton	1.50	0 +6	
40820	J Parkinson	Everton	1.50	+1 +18	
40821	A Linn	Everton	1.50	0 +1	
40822	V Sneyd	Everton	0.50	0 +7	
40823	A McManus	Hearts	1.50	+2 +8	
40824	S Fulton	Hearts	1.00	+2 +7	
40825	K McAllister	Hibernian	1.50	0 +13	
40826	P McGinley	Hibernian	1.50	+3 +13	
40827	L Lowe	Hibernian	0.75	0 +2	
40828	A Miller	Hibernian	0.75	0 +3	
40829	I Cameron	Hibernian	1.00	0 +9	
40830	J McIntyre	Kilmarnock	1.00	0 +8	
40831	M Skilling	Kilmarnock	0.75	0 0	
40832	J Lushman	Kilmarnock	0.50	+1 +4	
40833	L Bowyer	Leeds United	3.00	+1 +16	
40834	A Gray	Leeds United	2.50	0 +1	
40835	C Palmer	Leeds United	2.00	+1 +10	
40836	R Wallace	Leeds United	1.50	0 +13	
40837	L Sharpe	Leeds United	3.50	+2 +28	
40838	I Harris	Leeds United	1.00	0 +14	
40839	M Ford	Leeds United	0.50	+2 +18	
40840	A Cousins	Leeds United	0.50	0 +8	
40841	M Tisdale	Leeds United	0.50	0 +8	
40842	N Linton	Leeds United	2.00	+3 +20	
40843	G Parker	Leeds United	2.00	+3 +10	
40844	S Taylor	Leeds United	2.00	+2 +14	
40845	J Lawrence	Leeds United	0.25	0 0	
40846	M Tzvet	Leeds United	1.00	+5 +23	
40847	S McManus	Liverpool	7.00	+4 +27	
40848	J Redknapp	Liverpool	4.00	+3 +19	
40849	J Barnes	Liverpool	4.00	0 +8	
40850	M Thomas	Liverpool	2.50	+5 +25	
40851	M Kennedy	Liverpool	1.00	0 0	
40852	P Berger	Liverpool	3.00	+3 +18	
40853	R Gigg	Manchester United	7.00	+1 +15	
40854	R Kooze	Manchester United	4.50	0 +5	
40855	D Backlund	Manchester United	4.00	+3 +29	
40856	N Butt	Manchester United	3.50	0 +16	
40857	B McClair	Manchester United	1.50	+1 +4	
40858	C Cooke	Manchester United	1.00	0 +1	
40859	B Thornley	Manchester United	1.00	0 +1	
40860	S Davies	Manchester United	0.50	0 0	
40861	J Cruick	Manchester United	2.50	0 +15	
40862	K Poborsky	Manchester United	4.00	+1 +14	
40863	Emerson	Middlesbrough	3.50	0 +13	
40864	J Jackson	Middlesbrough	0.50	0 +2	
40865	C Wilgott	Middlesbrough	2.00	+2 +7	
40866	A Moore	Middlesbrough	1.00	0 +1	
40867	R Mustoe	Middlesbrough	1.00	+2 +15	
40868	C Liddle	Middlesbrough	0.50	+2 +2	
40869	S Midson	Middlesbrough	0.50	0 +1	
40870	C Stans	Middlesbrough	0.50	+2 +10	
40871	C McCart	Motherwell	1.00	+1 +9	
40872	J Philbin	Motherwell	1.00	+1 +6	
40873	J Dolan	Motherwell	1.00	+1 +5	
40874	J Hendry	Motherwell	0.75	0 +2	
40875	D Glnob	Newcastle United	5.50	0 +14	
40876	R Lee	Newcastle United	5.50	0 +14	
40877	K Gillespie	Newcastle United	5.50	0 +10	
40878	E Barry	Newcastle United	3.00	0 +14	
40879	L Clark	Newcastle United	3.00	0 +3	
40880	I Woon	Nottingham Forest	4.50	0 +12	
40881	S Stone	Nottingham Forest	4.00	0 +2	
40882	S Gerrnill	Nottingham Forest	2.50	0 +4	
40883	C Barr-Williams	Nottingham Forest	2.00	0 +9	
40884	D Phillips	Nottingham Forest	1.00	0 +8	
40885	T Rougier	Raith Rovers	3.00	0 +16	
40886	D Lunn	Raith Rovers	3.00	0 +22	
40887	S Thomson	Raith Rovers	0.50	+2 +16	
40888	P Gascoigne	Rangers	7.00	+1 +39	
40889	P Gascoigne	Rangers	5.00	+3 +30	
40890	P Gascoigne	Rangers	2.00	0 +9	
40891	T Stover	Rangers	1.50	0 0	
40892	J Albert	Rangers	4.00	0 +17	
40893	R Blinker	Sheffield Wednesday	2.50	0 +13	
40894	M Penbridge	Sheffield Wednesday	1.50	+2 +14	
40895	J Sheridan	Sheffield Wednesday	1.50	0 0	
40896	G Hyde	Sheffield Wednesday	1.50	+2 +14	
40897	R Jones	Sheffield Wednesday	0.50	0 0	
40898	R Jones	Sheffield Wednesday	0.50	0 0	
40899	S Collins	Sheffield Wednesday	1.50	0 +6	
40900	W Oakes	Sheffield Wednesday	0.75	0 +7	
40901	O Trustfull	Sheffield Wednesday	1.50	0 +12	
40902	S Carbone	Sheffield Wednesday	3.00	+2 +12	
40903	J Magilton	Southampton	2.50	+1 +16	
40904	B Venison	Southampton	1.00	0 0	
40905	D Hughes	Southampton	1.00	0 +8	
40906	R Evans	Southampton	1.00	0 +8	
40907	M Oakley	Southampton	0.50		

NEWS

Euro money splits Bonn and Paris

France and Germany failed to patch up their quarrel over the stability pact which is supposed to secure fiscal discipline after the start of European monetary union.

Instead they opened up a new front in the campaign for a more tightly integrated Europe. In a joint open letter to the Irish presidency they urged that the principal of "flexibility", which allows fast integrators to move forward, be extended from foreign policy to areas such as common immigration, visa and asylum decisions. Pages 1, 8, 13

Judge praises machete heroine

A nursery nurse who was stabbed repeatedly as she shielded children from a machete-wielding man who ran amok during a Teddy Bears picnic was commended for her bravery by a judge. Page 1

Willets dispute

A Commons disciplinary hearing to decide the political future of David Willets, the Paymaster General, broke up as MPs argued over his punishment. Page 1

Succession Bill

Lord Archer of Weston-super-Mare won cross-party support in the House of Lords to press forward with his plans to give women equal rights to succeed to the throne. Page 1

Cancer and diet

British scientists have discovered why a diet rich in carrots, green vegetables and fruit may prevent cancer. Page 2

Busy day

Marylebone leprosy a.m. Manhattan libertines p.m. that was yesterday's engagements diary on a busy, transatlantic sort of Monday for Diana, Princess of Wales. Page 3

Day off from school

Ministers have scaled down ambitious plans to coax bored teenagers back into education by offering all 14-year-olds the chance of a day a week out of school. Page 4

Stripped down

Financial crisis has struck another of Britain's historic treasures. Receivers are seeking a buyer and benefactor to save Health & Efficiency, the naturalist magazine, for the nation. Page 5

Scientist sues for loss of cold snaps

A scientist asked a court that Boots pay the £30,000 cost of an expedition to the Arctic Circle so he can retake pictures lost by the high street chain. Dr Barry Matthews claims that the 36 shots he took at Franz Josef Land are essential for his research on climatic change. He is suing for the cost of leading a six-man team back to the Arctic. Page 1

Thames bridge vote

The Royal Academy announced that the public had voted 2-1 in favour of a 35-storey tower in its competition for an inhabited bridge to be built across the Thames. Page 10

Navigation danger

A new air navigation system designed to allow commercial airliners to fly with pinpoint accuracy anywhere in the world could be flawed. Page 11

Chinese campaign

China is in the middle of the harshest political campaign since the aftermath of the suppression of pro-democracy demonstrations in Tiananmen Square. Page 12

Nato rift

An increasingly damaging rift between the US and France over the future command of Nato's southern military headquarters is undermining restructuring of the alliance. Page 13

Silver hoard

Police in India have seized half a tonne of silver in raids on the homes of a politician, arrested for alleged fraud. Page 14

Rights at work

A quarrel over efforts to impose human rights in the global workplace pitted Britain against the United States and France, souring the start of the first ministerial session of the World Trade Organisation. Page 15



Jacques Chirac and Helmut Kohl wave to crowds in the streets of Nuremberg before discussions on the European single currency. Page 13

BUSINESS

Inflation subdued: A surprisingly favourable set of inflation figures has diminished the chances of a base rate rise. Page 25

Brewery takeover reference: Bass' planned takeover of rival brewer Carlsberg-Tetley hangs in the balance after the Government referred the deal to the Monopolies and Mergers Committee. Page 25

Floors pulled: Friday's stock market crash claimed its first victims as northern stockbrokers Wise Speke and public house chain Discovery Inns both pulled plans to float on the Stock Exchange. Page 25

Markets: The FTSE 100 closed up +8.6 at 4011.6. Sterling rose 1 point to 93.0 after the pound rose from \$1.6418 to \$1.6473 and from DM2.5292 to DM2.5642. Page 28

SPORT

Rugby union: Yet again the Varsity match will attract a capacity crowd at Twickenham, reflecting the continuing appeal of the amateur game. Page 46

Football: Brighton, the bottom club in the Football League, was fined two points after two pitch invasions by protesting supporters at the Goldstone Ground. Page 46

International choices: England selected Jeremy Guscott on the wing for the game against Argentina and picked Nick Beal, of Northampton, at full back. Wales called up two newcomers to face South Africa. Page 48

Crickets: Andrew Caddick and Ronnie Irani are fighting for a place in the England team for the first Test match against Zimbabwe. Page 44

ARTS

Paint magic: The Hayward Gallery puts on display Howard Hodgkin's intensely charged memories of landscapes and people, and the emotional impact overwhelms Richard Cork. Page 33

Cherry pie: On her long-awaited first British tour, Neneh Cherry delivers an upbeat, rabble-rousing set at Shepherd's Bush that is more Tina Turner than Tricky. Page 33

Girls having fun: New York's Anonymous 4 are the Spice Girls of the Gregorian chant, succeeding with medieval polyphony. Page 34

Song and dance: John Pevsner recalls a golden postwar era of Covent Garden productions, when ballet and opera took each other seriously and wonders why the relationship went wrong. Page 36

IN THE TIMES

STYLE
How Cambridge students make the best of low budgets

INTERFACE
The weekly technology section offers a guide to the newest electronic gadgets to liven up Christmas stockings

TV LISTINGS

Preview: The Yorkshire Ripper's crimes may go further than he has admitted. *Network First* (ITV, 10.40pm). **Review:** Lynne Truss on tales of the fearless. Page 47

Traded away

The WTO should stick to its ambitious core task of making trade rules and making them stick; and America should be helping, instead of diverting it down a political cul-de-sac. Page 19

Lanark lesson

The most practical point to be made is prosaic. Individuals can limit the risk to health by buying, storing and cooking food with all care; and, even in a country as regulated as Britain, tragic error can still mock honest effort. Page 19

Trucker's phrase book

In the new world, a trucker has to be a patient diplomat and sociologist: to be a simple lorry-driver is not enough. Page 19

LIBBY PURVES

The real miracle of reading is a simple daily one: the relationship between the lone browsing reader and the book, picked up by accident, which changes a life. Page 19

WOODROW WYATT

When Basilidon voters were asked by MORI whether Britain should join the single currency, 64 per cent were against and only 20 per cent were in favour. Answering a question about whether the EU should continue to move towards political and monetary union, 69 per cent were against and a mere 15 per cent were in favour. Page 18

GERALD HOLTHAM

British children in the main are less well educated than their counterparts abroad. The elite are fully competitive but the average is dragged down by underachievement. And we are particularly weak in maths. Page 18

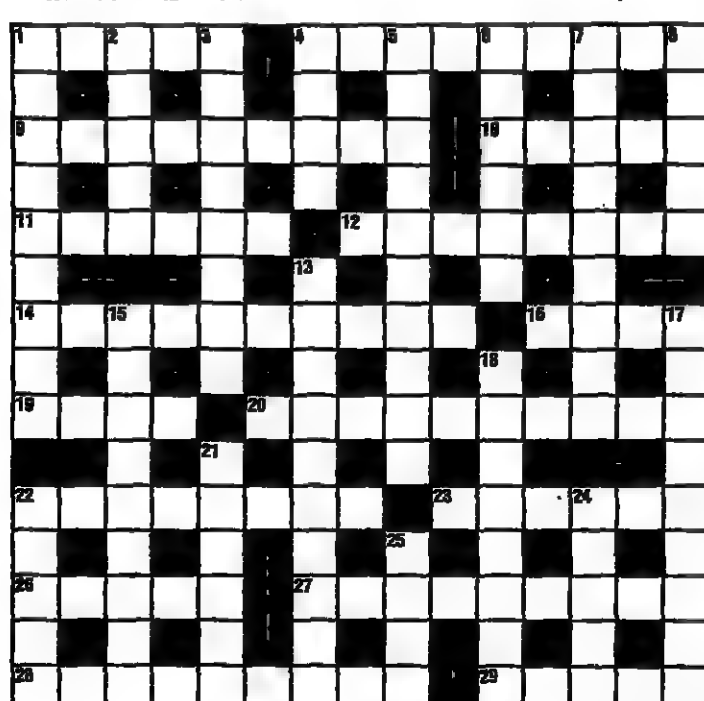
OBITUARIES

Mary Leakey, anthropologist; **Alain Pöher,** French Senate President, 1988-92; **Bruce Pattison,** Professor of Education, London University, 1948-76. Page 21

LETTERS

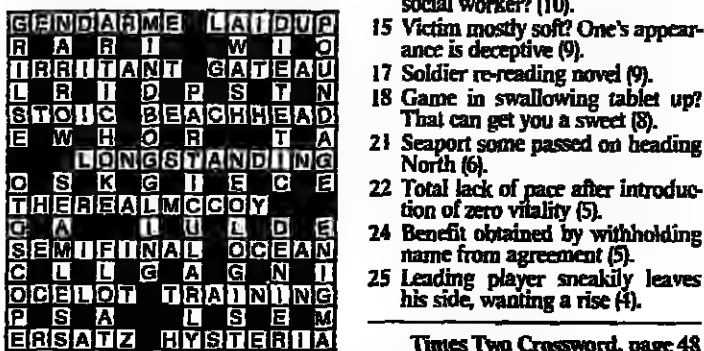
For and against cormorants: NHS funding; heavy lorries; gas safety; Himalayan marmosets. Page 18

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,347



- ACROSS**
- Before onset of thunderstorm, put on Basque's head? (5)
 - Persistent blinism? Taken to court about that? (9)
 - Town's not very colourful and unlikely to change? (9)
 - Complete fool losing his head? (5)
 - Reserve top seats at the opera, getting a good store of champagne? (6)
 - Mean, pinching artist's fish? (5-3)
 - A nuisance interrupting attempts to supply wall decorations? (10)
 - Composer runs in to ask for notes, perhaps? (4)
 - Spanish city backed this festival? (4)
 - Poetry set originally with English printing-plate? (10)
 - Excess is something we may celebrate in love poems? (8)
 - Almost all headgear backed with a woolly fabric? (6)
- DOWN**
- His golden handshake not wanted? Stupid to return it, on reflection? (5)
 - Hint on a new wine for hors d'oeuvres? (9)
 - Heaven, hopefully, making man beam? Ecstasy found therein? (9)
 - Winsey, say, getting grip on heart of mystery? (5)
 - Poor cricket side accepting a lot of money for the sport? (9)
 - Solution for one wanting to change the locks? (5)
 - Retaliatory blow small creature gives bird? (8)
 - Money paid for naval equipment? (4)
 - Weather set for a storm? That'll do for ducks! (10)
 - Graduate's rewritten manual? (6)
 - It's about the ultimate in ill-repute - and no Conservative should accept that? (9)
 - Black and blue? (5)
 - Opposing or supporting check on social workers? (10)
 - Victim mostly soft? One's appearance is deceptive? (9)
 - Soldier re-reading novel? (9)
 - Game in swallowing tablet up? That can get you a sweet? (8)
 - Seaport some passed on heading North? (6)
 - Total lack of pace after introduction of zero vitality? (5)
 - Benefit obtained by withholding name from agreement? (5)
 - Leading player sneakily leaves his side, wanting a rise? (4)

Solution to Puzzle No 20,346



AN INFORMATION

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European fuel costs 0326 401 886
French Motorways 0326 401 887
Support Information 0326 401 888
Disrupted Flies 0326 401 889
Le Shuttle 0326 401 895

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HOURS OF DARKNESS
Sun rises: 7.55 am Sun sets: 3.32 pm
Moon sets: 4.15 pm Moon rises: 7.08 am

River mist today
London 3.32 pm to 7.56 am
Bristol 4.02 pm to 8.05 am
Edinburgh 3.39 pm to 8.34 am
Manchester 3.50 pm to 8.18 am
Penzance 4.20 pm to 8.11 am

FORECAST

General: Wales and western parts of England should be mostly dry with some brightness. Most other parts of England will begin dull and misty with some persistent fog, especially in the Midlands and the North.

Northern Ireland and parts of western Scotland should have the best of any brightness. The rest of Scotland should be overcast with patchy drizzle and fog. Northernmost parts should be cloudy with light rain.

London, SE England, Central & England, Channel Isles, SW England: overcast, patchy drizzle or fog. Brighter later. Wind moderate east to northerly. Max 7C (45F).

E Anglia, E Midlands, E England, W Midlands, Central N, NE

England, Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, Aberdeen, Central Highlands, Moray Firth: dull and misty with patchy drizzle and fog. Wind light east to northerly. Max 6C (43F).

S Wales, N Wales, NW England, Lake District, Isle of Man: mostly dry, some brightness. Wind easterly light to moderate. Max 7C (45F).

SW Scotland, Glasgow, Argyll, N Ireland: mainly dry with some bright spells. Wind south to southeasterly light to moderate. Max 8C (46F).

NE Scotland, SW Scotland, Orkney, Shetland: cloudy with some light rain or drizzle. Wind southerly to southwesterly. Max 8C (46F).

Outlook: overcast with patchy fog and frost with rain later in northwest.

24 hrs to 8 pm: b=brilliant; c=cloudy; d=drizzle; dc=drizzle and cloud; f=fog; g=gale; h=hail; r=rain; sh=snow; s=sunny; t=thunder; w=wind; x=other.

AROUND BRITAIN

Area	Time	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Notes
Aberdeen	10.01	48	F	100	
London	10.01	48	F	100	
Manchester	10.01	48	F	100	
Cardiff	10.01	48	F	100	
Belfast	10.01	48	F	100	
Edinburgh	10.01	48	F	100	
Glasgow	10.01	48	F	100	
Sheffield	10.01	48	F	100	
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BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

TUESDAY DECEMBER 10 1996

Lang sends Bass's £200m Carlsberg deal to MMC

By ALAN MURRAY

THE £200 million takeover by Bass of its rival Carlsberg-Tetley hung in the balance yesterday after Ian Lang, President of the Board of Trade, referred the proposed deal to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

The takeover has already run into opposition from unions concerned about further job cuts in brewing and rival companies worried by Bass's growing power in the beer market.

Merging the two companies

would create the largest brewer in the UK, controlling about 38 per cent of the market, up from Bass's current 23 per cent. Bass would own the two biggest-selling lager brands — its present Carling Black Label and Carlsberg-Tetley's Carlsberg.

Bass will not say how many jobs would go after a tie-up of the two companies, but insists that none of the 20,000 jobs would be lost. Unions fear that up to 2,000 jobs would go.

The MMC report is due by the end of March, but the City believes that Mr Lang might deliver a final

decision — to avoid the political embarrassment of job cuts — until after the general election, due to be held by the end of May.

Analysts expect the MMC to approve the deal, but to force Bass to sell hundreds of tied pubs and reduce its brand portfolio.

Bass said that it was disappointed with the decision, but hopes for a speedy resolution to the MMC inquiry. Bass added that it believed more jobs would be safe at both companies if the takeover is approved. Bass last week announced

plans to create 7,000 jobs in a £670 million investment programme.

The company stands to lose up to £60 million if the takeover does not go through — in spite of having put a get-out clause in the original deal with Allied Domecq. Bass has the option to sell on Allied's former stake to Carlsberg for £110 million. Allied will also repay Bass £30 million and maintain a 15 per cent stake in the company.

Mr Lang's decision at first sent Bass shares lower, but they closed up 14½p at 803½p after Bass

confirmed that it is in talks with a US hotel company over the sale of some of its Holiday Inn hotels in North America. Bass is thought to be considering selling to Bristol Hotels, about 50 of the 81 Holiday Inn Worldwide hotels Bass owns directly. Most of the 2,000-strong Holiday Inn chain is franchised.

□ Bass yesterday agreed to extend its deal to sponsor the FA Carling Premiership for another four years, paying £9 million a year for the pleasure. The deal, lasting until June 2001, was won against

competition from six other potential sponsors.

"We were in discussion with several other companies and there could have been even more money on the table," said Rick Parry, chief executive of the Premier League. "But the clubs wanted continuity. It has been an excellent partnership between Carling and ourselves and the clubs were unanimous in voting for its extension."

Pennington, page 27
Parry's last deal, page 48

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET	INDEX	CHANGE
FTSE 100	4011.6	(+48.8)
FTSE All share	3,576	(+20.9)
Nikkei	20623.71	(+227.01)
Dow Jones	6418.84	(+36.00)
S&P Composite	744.12	(+4.52)

US RATE	PERCENT	PERCENT
Federal Funds	5.25%	(0.25%)
Long Bond	100%	(0.51%)
Yield	6.88%	(0.51%)

LONDON MONEY	PERCENT	PERCENT
3-month interbank	5.25%	(0.25%)
Libor 3m	100%	(100%)
Future (Mar)	100%	(100%)

NEW YORK	INDEX	CHANGE
Dow Jones	1,847.70	(+1.847)
S&P 500	1,847.70	(+1.847)
Nikkei	1,847.70	(+1.847)
Yen	113.07	(+0.07)

TOKYO	INDEX	CHANGE
Nikkei	1,847.70	(+1.847)
Dow Jones	1,847.70	(+1.847)
S&P 500	1,847.70	(+1.847)
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Inflation fall eases fears of rate rise

By JANET BUSH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

A SURPRISINGLY favourable set of inflation figures yesterday lengthened the odds on a base rate rise when the Chancellor meets the Governor of the Bank of England tomorrow.

The pound's sharp appreciation of more than 10 per cent against a basket of currencies since August has fed rapidly through into dramatically lower prices for imports of raw materials, depressing industry's costs.

Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, said the figures were spectacularly good. In testimony to the Treasury Select Committee he appeared to dampen the chance of a rate rise because of sterling's strength. He said: "West Midlands manufacturers are not bounding up asking for a rate rise as a response to the strength of sterling."

The latest figures from the Office for National Statistics show that producer input prices plunged 3.2 per cent in November. This left input prices down 5.5 per cent against a year ago, compared with a year-on-year decline in October of 2.7 per cent.

Output prices, which measure the price of goods as they leave the factory gates, were unchanged in November, but this meant that the annual rate of output price inflation fell to 2.1 per cent in November compared with 2.3 per cent a month earlier. The annual rate of core output price inflation — which excludes food, drink, tobacco and petroleum — fell to only 0.8 per cent, the lowest level since 1967.

Angela Knight, Economic Secretary to the Treasury, said the latest figures suggested good news on retail prices in the months ahead. "Today's low inflation at the factory gate is tomorrow's good news for prices in the shops," she said.

Simon Briscoe, economist at Nikko Europe, said that hopes of good news on retail prices would be resurrected after these figures and that underly-

ing inflationary pressures look set to stay low for some time. He said that the latest figures support the view of the Treasury and the Bank of England that underlying inflation should reach the 2.5 per cent target by the end of next year.

Adding to the argument against a rate rise this week was the latest retail sales monitor from the British Retail Consortium (BRC), which showed that retail sales growth had slowed in November to its lowest rate of increase for seven months. The value of sales was up 4.9 per cent year on year, compared with an annual rise in October of 5.9 per cent.

The BRC report appeared to confirm the picture of slower growth painted by the CBI's distributive trades survey last week, which also showed that intense competition among retailers was keeping a lid on prices. Even before yesterday's data, the City had virtually ruled out a rate rise at tomorrow's monetary meeting. Of 21 economists surveyed by Reuters, not one predicted a rate move this week, although 18 of the 21 expect rates to rise by an average of a quarter point by the election.

The consensus against a rate rise this week hardened after last week's testimony by Eddie George, Governor of the Bank of England, before the Treasury Select Committee. He said that Mr Clarke had been "up with the game" when he raised rates by a quarter point in October. He also said that while the Bank would like to see higher rates in due course it is not looking for a dramatic or urgent move.

The Chancellor and the Governor will have access to the latest retail prices figures — published on Thursday — at their meeting tomorrow. Unless they are extremely disappointing — and the City is expecting no change in the main measures of inflation from October — it seems likely that rates will be left on hold.

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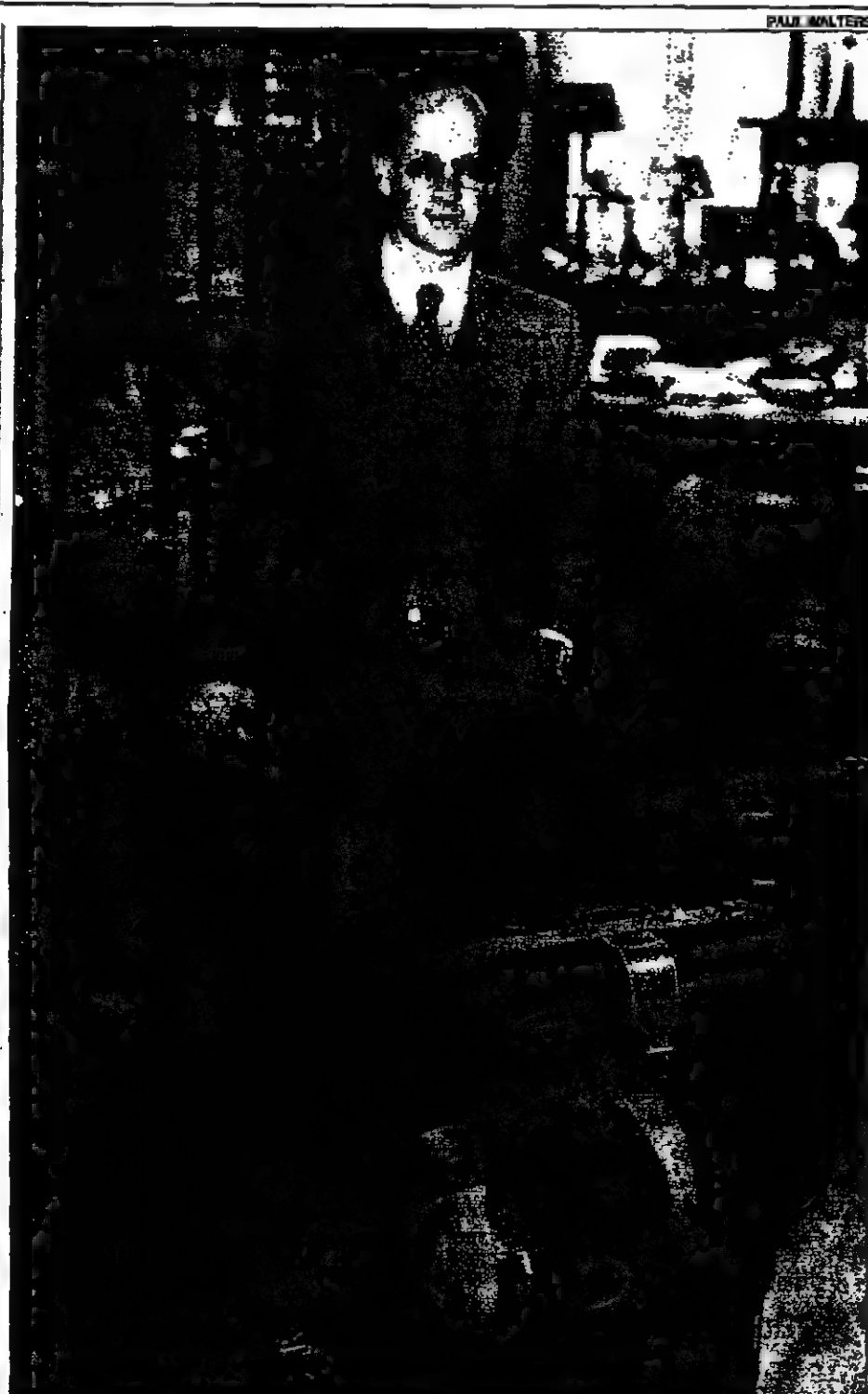
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Case history: Roger Saul, chairman of Mulberry, the AIM leather goods and clothes company, reported a 38 per cent growth in sales this year as it announced an expected interim loss of £480,000 for the half year. It is paying a .75p dividend. Tempus, page 28

MMC to clear Stagecoach deal

By OLIVER AUGUST

STAGECOACH is set to escape a referral to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission over its takeover of Porterbrook, the rail company.

The go-ahead will turn bosses into instant millionaires. Sandy Anderson, a former BR manager, is to reap a bonus of £40 million from the sale after less than a year's work as managing director at Porterbrook. The Department of

Trade and Industry yesterday set out the undertakings that Stagecoach will have to give.

The undertakings, for which Stagecoach signalled approval, call for Chinese walls between the two businesses and for competitors and regulators to have free access to internal information necessary for a competitive market.

The DTI invited further comments on a potential referral to the MMC by December 16. Stagecoach is hoping for

approval before Christmas, while the DTI said it would soon make a final decision on whether to refer the deal.

The announcement of the Stagecoach bid in the summer was greeted with scepticism — it was said to be creating a private monopoly immediately after the break-up of British Rail. Stagecoach is a rail operator, while Porterbrook controls rolling stock.

Pennington, page 27

Floats shelved in wake of stock market slide

By GAVIN LUMSDEN

THE stock market fall on Friday claimed its first victims yesterday as Wise Speke, the Northern stockbroker, and Discovery Inns, the public house chain, both pulled out of planned floatations.

Lord Poole, chief executive of Ockham Holdings, the insurance group which wholly owns Wise Speke, said stock market volatility in the three weeks since the float was announced had caused the market in small issues to dry up. Ockham had wanted to cut its stake in Wise Speke to 60 per cent. Analysts said institutional investors had been reluctant to back a private-client stockbroker in a "frothy" market.

Wise Speke, which manages £21

billion of assets for 19,000 private clients and employs 250 staff in London, Leeds, Manchester and Newcastle, had been valued at £15 million. Despite the setback, Lord Poole said that the company would seek to introduce a share incentive scheme for senior management at Wise Speke.

Discovery Inns, owned by venture capitalists led by Kleinwort Benson Development Capital, manages 279 pubs, mostly in the South and the Midlands. Paul Smith, chief executive, said that he had hoped to raise £16 million but demand for the issue evaporated during last week. He said: "It's very frustrating when you get to this stage."

Tempus, page 28

Christmas strike threat to NatWest and Lloyds

By GAVIN LUMSDEN

THE Banking Insurance and Finance Union (Bifu) is urging more than 50,000 of its members to strike in defence of traditional holidays over Christmas. The union is balloting 35,000 staff at Lloyds-TSB and NatWest who are being required to work on Christmas Eve afternoon for the first time. Lloyds-TSB wants to stay open until 4.30pm and NatWest until 3.30pm. NatWest had agreed in October that staff could go home at lunchtime.

Bifu is also balloting 16,000 Scottish workers over banks' plans to Anglicise their holidays by replacing the January 2 bank holiday with one on Easter Monday. The results of both ballots will be known next Monday. Bifu

must give the banks a week's notice of strike action.

Martin Gray, chief executive of NatWest UK, said: "As an organisation we must remember the commercial realities facing us and many units have confirmed that a substantial number of customers will be looking for a full banking service on Christmas Eve."

Ed Sweeney, Bifu general secretary, said: "There's no evidence of any customer demand to pop into a bank on Christmas Eve afternoon. Bank employers seem to think they can treat staff like pawns to move around their chess board." Bifu said staff shortages made offers from the banks of time in lieu difficult to arrange. NatWest and Lloyds-TSB have made 47,000 people redundant in the past six years.

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□ Beckett may have to cut competition teeth on Bass □ Bears react like a bull at a gate □ Another glitch for Ayling

Lang passes the poisoned pint

IAN LANG is a wily political operator. Not being as laissez-faire as his predecessor as President of the Board of Trade, Michael Heseltine, his natural inclination would be to block Bass's purchase of Carlsberg.

But by the same token, the general election is at best a few months, and at worst a few days, off. Bass has been a good friend to the Tories in the past and the Tories need all the friends they can get now.

Mind you the merger would mean large-scale job cuts in Burton-on-Trent, which would not be good in the run-up to an election. So he has referred the whole thing to Monopolies and Mergers Commission which should take long enough for it to end up being Margaret Beckett's problem (assuming she is not moved sideways in Tony Blair's first Cabinet).

When Mrs Beckett gets to mull the matter over, she will be presented with strong arguments in favour of both blocking the deal and letting it through. Let's take the latter first.

Bass is putting forward the argument that, as Scottish & Newcastle was allowed to buy Courage — giving the resulting company a 31 per cent share of the UK brewed beer market — the

nominal rule that you are referred to a deal gives you more than a quarter of the market is bunk. Therefore it should be allowed to expand, even though the resulting deal will mean that over 80 per cent of Britain's beer is brewed by just three companies.

Bass also argues that the British drinks market has changed beyond all recognition since the Beer Orders of 1969, with the untied pubs having much more power and about 10 per cent of all beer being imported across the Channel. So having market share does not matter if you do not have the product and the marketing to support them.

Debunking this argument is easy. For a start Bass already has a 23 per cent share, and adding Carlsberg-Teddy's 14 per cent will give it quite a lot more than Scottish Courage. Parts of the UK, notably Scotland and the North-East, will have the situation where two brewers command over three quarters of the

market. And in larger you will have the two largest brands under the same umbrella, giving Bass something approaching a 50 per cent market share of the beverage of choice of non-middle class football fans.

Bass has said it will drop the deal if the MMC says it should sell any of its major brands. But if Margaret Beckett is to prove that under Labour competition policy will have teeth, she has to call Bass's bluff and make it sell something major, such as Tennants or Carlsberg.

Correction, hold that correction

WALL STREET'S inevitable correction has suffered an embarrassing false start. Traders in the Far East and in London, where shares fell an average 4.2 per cent before lunch on Friday, overreacted to Thursday night's warnings of "irrational exuberance" from Alan Greenspan, Chairman of the US



Federal Reserve Board. Outsiders have argued for months that Wall Street was overvalued. After a near-70 per cent rise in share prices in two years, US blue chips had outpaced any possible rise in their "true" value. Some evidently thought Mr Greenspan was threatening an interest rate rise to forestall asset price inflation spilling over into spending and borrowing. In reality, Mr Greenspan does not think the US economy needs or would benefit from a rate rise, so he tried to talk markets down.

The latest Merrill Lynch Gallop global survey shows that Japanese and British fund man-

agers were already bearish about their own markets, unlike continentalers. Faced with having to react to Mr Greenspan before his home audience, they assumed the worst.

Bulls who have made Wall Street overvalued, and want to keep it that way, could by contrast point to the intrinsic hollowiness of Mr Greenspan's warning and call his bluff. If he was not thinking of a rate rise, he was removing the biggest threat to the onward rush of the Dow Jones average.

If a stock market trend has gathered momentum, as Wall Street's boom certainly has, it takes more than a man with a red flag to stop it, even if that man has the ultimate power to make his wishes count. But the upward trend will eventually crack.

Even in a putative golden age of steady growth, low inflation and interest rates, short-term gains rush too far ahead of trend and have to be corrected. That may come within weeks or even in mid-1997, when Mr Green-

span's thinking implies that corporate profit growth will disappoint, and might prime 10 per cent off the US average.

Long-term investors on Wall Street will take this in their stride. UK investors have a more pressing domestic agenda.

Writing on the wall

SIX MONTHS have passed since British Airways announced its triumphant link-up with American Airlines, and what is there to show for it? The streamers and flags have long since blown away in a hurricane of protest, and the bones that remain are flexing dangerously before the blast. Certainly, consumers are no closer to reaping the benefits.

For Bob Ayling, BA's chief executive, the regulatory tussles are just another glitch in an extraordinarily difficult year. The Gatwick pay dispute, the threatened pilots' strike, and the Heath-

row baggage fiasco each heaped fresh woes on the shoulders of The World's Favourite Airline. At the heart of it is the contempt in which BA's 55,000 employees hold the BA management, and the luckless Ayling in particular. The Step Change programme, with its goal of shedding 5,000 jobs to save £1 billion, was never going to make friends, but the level of vitriol is astonishing, all the same. Anti-Ayling graffiti are rife. "BA's no good for BA" is one of the politer examples.

BA has taken to holding weekly workshops with staff, but this may not be enough. The fear is that Mr Ayling will remain isolated in his ivory tower, oblivious to the tide of discontent rising below. Graffiti may turn out to be the least of his problems.

In one bound, free

LIKE Batman, caught by the Penguin, Stagecoach appears to be able to elude the clutches of those who wish it harm. Yesterday it was asked for a whole raft of undertakings to avoid a monopolies reference on the purchase of train owner Porterbrook. Those given, its unfettered growth will carry on until we all end up going to work on something owned by Stagecoach.

BBA pays £175m for American aviation engineer

By OLIVER AUGUST

BBA, the industrial group, has acquired an American aerospace engineering business for £175 million in a move to exploit growth potential in the corporate aviation market.

As part of the deal, BBA will also pay off £63 million in debt. The acquisition, International Airmotive, is based in Dallas and services engines of small to medium-size aircraft, mainly corporate jets. BBA expects its market to grow by 5 per cent a year. The previous owners were bought out 18 months ago by a management team, which will be kept in place by BBA.

Robert Quarrie, BBA chief executive, said: "International Airmotive is an attractive opportunity, having a leading position in the US business aviation repair and overhaul market and a strong management team. With its high engineering content, International Airmotive will enable BBA to create an important bridge between BBA's existing



Quarrie: US opportunity

aviation manufacturing and service activities." International Airmotive has two principle subsidiaries. Its Dallas Airmotive is one of the world's largest independent turbine overhaul and repair providers for the business aviation market. It caters for both fixed-wing and helicopter customers and is set to receive approval to service the latest generation of small jet engines. The business's International

Turbine Services subsidiary has Federal Aviation Authority approval to recondition used aerospace engines.

The acquisition, expected to be completed early next year, requires regulatory approval in the US and contractual approvals. BBA said that the acquisition would be paid in cash from existing resources.

International Airmotive made pre-tax profits of £3 million on sales of £91.6 million for the nine and a half months to December 31 1995.

BBA has also completed the acquisition of Corovin Group, a German engineer. The business, based in Lower Saxony, is intended to be a BBA foothold in Germany. Corovin has a strong presence in emerging markets such as Thailand, South Africa and India and should help BBA to push into these. BBA said the acquisition is costing it DM92 million and the assumption of debt on a consolidated basis of no more than DM86 million.

Times, page 28

Carclo shares plummet

SHARES of Carclo, the metal and engineering group, staged their sharpest one-day fall in the company's 29 years on the stock market after giving warning it could not foresee an end to the slump in its core stainless steel market (Financial Times).

While Carclo returned an expected decline in pre-tax profits to £7.12 million (£8.2 million) for the six months to September 30, analysts had

been expecting news of a recovery in its markets. The shares plunged from 251p to close at a four-year low of 202½p.

Ian Williamson, chief executive, said the tough market conditions look set to continue to the year end. He added that the strength of sterling would wipe a further £500,000 from its profits. Earnings shrank to 8.1p per share (9.2p) as the interim dividend, due on March 6, was frozen at 3.44p.

Microvitec warning

SHARES in Microvitec tumbled by more than 25 per cent yesterday as the computer equipment company said that this year's profits will be "significantly below expectations". This was the company's second profits warning in four months. Announcing its interim results in August, it disclosed problems at a Canadian subsidiary and the collapse of a business partner. Microvitec said second-half results

are likely to show a loss because of the slower than expected transition to and market acceptance of new product ranges. It said it was confident that it is well positioned to benefit from future growth in its markets. Last year, Microvitec made pre-tax profits of £3.4 million. This year its shares have fallen from a peak of 714p to yesterday's close of 20½p. It made £1.6 million in the first half.

Xenova seeks to calm float fears

By ERIC REGULY

XENOVA, the biopharmaceuticals company, yesterday attempted to calm fears that it is about to abandon its UK flotation, which was supposed to have been completed in November.

A spokesman denied market speculation that the flotation, designed to raise about £25 million, might be cancelled but left open the possibility that it could be scaled back. He said Xenova should know the results of the equity placing by Thursday.

"It's taken a little bit longer than we had hoped, but I'm confident that the issue will be successfully completed," he said. Xenova, based in Slough, Berkshire, was founded in 1987 and specialises in the development of drugs from naturally occurring micro-organisms. It has said its first

products should reach the market by the year 2000.

The company obtained a listing on the Nasdaq market in America in 1994 at \$6.60 a share, raising \$10 million, and later completed two additional placings at \$4 and \$3.75. The shares were trading yesterday at just over \$3.50. Greig Middleton, the stockbroker, is sponsoring the London flotation.

Shares of Celltech, the biotechnology company, rose 124p to 500p yesterday after it reported "encouraging" clinical results of CMA 676, its leukaemia drug.

Chiroscience said the US Food and Drug Administration had granted it "investigational new drug status" for levobupivacaine, a long-acting local anaesthetic. Chiroscience shares closed at 329p, up 11p.

Electronic Data sees profits slip

By FRASER NELSON

ELECTRONIC Data Processing has declared its lowest annual profits for six years after a decline in hardware margins and heavy spending of £1.78 million, on research and development. Pre-tax profits fell to £2.5 million, from £3.1 million.

However, significant new orders for the company's software products prompted a sharp rise in the share price, which closed up 13p from the year's low, at 72½p.

EDP gained £513,000 from interest on its £7 million cash pile. The company said that, for the past two years, it had been looking to spend the money on an acquisition, but could not agree on prices.

Earnings per share were 6.64p (7.53p). An increased final dividend of 1.53p, due on April 7, makes a total of 2.2p (1.5p).

NPC prepares for listing with upbeat first interims

By CLARE STEWART

NATIONAL Parking Corporation, the NPC car parks to vehicle recovery group, announced a 157 per cent increase in operating profits to £25.5 million as it reported interim results for the first time.

The change comes as the group prepares for a full stock market listing within two years. NPC, in which founders Sir Donald Gosling and Ronald Hobson hold a 73 per cent stake, was the subject of a failed management buyout two years ago. At present, its shares are quoted on the OTC.

Pre-tax profits for the six months to October were £20.7 million (£21 million), reflecting the cost of the special dividend paid in 1995 and interest on the



Mackenzie cost savings

£230 million loan arranged last year. The group has more than 520 car parks under the NPC brand in the UK. Bob Mackenzie, chief executive, said that first-half turnover fell

because of the reduction in the number of car parks as poorer-performing sites were sold.

New car parks are scheduled to open before the end of the financial year, and the group also hopes to lift its 12 per cent market share through the acquisition of council and local authority car parks.

Mr Mackenzie said that significant cost savings are being realised with the introduction of automated systems to handle administration and accounting. The changes have led to the loss of around 200 jobs within the division.

Green Flag, NPC's roadside assistance division formerly known as National Breakdown, lifted turnover 7 per cent, with profits also ahead.

NPC is raising the interim dividend 25 per cent to 2.5p.

h d g t a l o i e r w t t e h o l e A d t o t c o s t m n.

Here's a fresh idea.

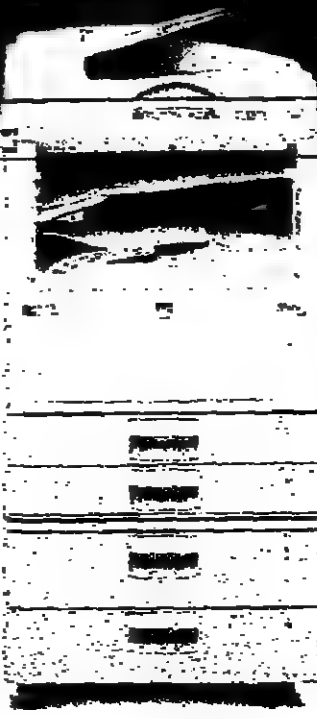
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STOCK MARKET

MICHAEL CLARK

Cadbury Schweppes dips as index bounces back

CADBURY SCHWEPES, the soft drinks and confectionery group, came under selling pressure in a rising market as brokers began to downgrade their profit estimates.

Cadbury finished just 7p above its low for the year after losing 9 1/2p to 477p. In October the shares were trading at about 520p. This latest fall has been prompted by a series of meetings with brokers. It seems there is little positive news for the group to report.

Trading conditions remain difficult, especially in the US where the group is competing for market share with PepsiCo and Coca-Cola.

Almost three million Cadbury shares changed hands in a market where traders normally only quote a price in 50,000 at a time.

Elsewhere in the food sector, Tate & Lyle finished 7p lower at 488p after going ex-dividend. Other stocks to go ex included United Utilities, down 13 1/2p at 590p, and 3i 1/2p easier at 483p. But they failed to hold back the rest of the equity market which now appears to have fully recovered from the comments by Alan Greenspan, US Federal Reserve chairman, about Wall Street on Friday.

The FT-SE 100 index bounced back along with other financial markets to close at its best of the day with a rise of 48.6 at 4,011.6. It has now risen more than 100 points from Friday's low point.

Prices were squeezed higher in this trading on strong performance overnight in the Far East and a firm start to trading on Wall Street. By the close of business, a total of 549 million shares had changed hands, but brokers in London remain cautious about short-term prospects and further volatility.

This week's Barnsley by-election and tomorrow's monthly economic meeting between Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, and Eddie George, Governor of the Bank of England, could send investors scurrying for cover.

Bass struggled off the news that its proposed acquisition of Carlsberg-Tetley has been referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission by finishing the day 1 1/2p higher at 803 1/2p. The move had been rumoured in the City since Bass paid £200 million for Allied Domecq's 50 per cent stake in the joint venture with Carlsberg. Bass is now offer-



Another good year from Mike Smith at APL steady at 700p

ing Carlsberg £20 million, plus 20 per cent of its equity for the balance.

Speculation about possible bid activity in the banking sector continued. This time the talk suggests Royal Bank of Scotland has been in talks with the Woolwich Building Society. The claims have been vehemently denied by the Woolwich which is still press-

ing ahead with a stock market listing. Royal Bank of Scotland has been in talks with the Woolwich Building Society. The claims have been vehemently denied by the Woolwich which is still press-

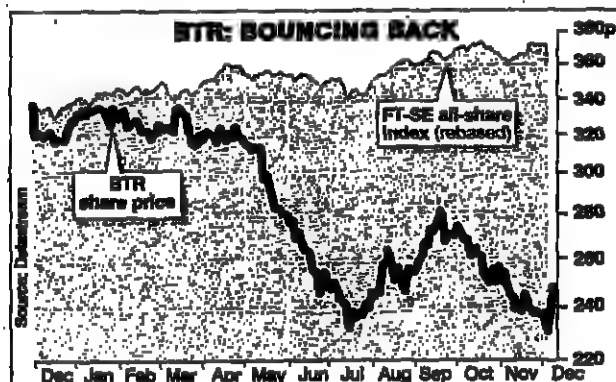
Premier Farnell fell 2 1/2p to 692 1/2p as NatWest Securities downgraded the group has long-term attractions but the dollar's weakness has led it to downgrade its profit forecasts for the next three years: by £2 million to £145 million for next year, and by £7 million to £207 million the following year.

Abbey National was another firm market adding 10p at 691p. Its name continues to be linked with Prudential Corporation, up 4 1/2p at 485 1/2p.

BTR ran up 1 1/2p to 249p on turnover of 13 million shares after Friday's upbeat trading report. Buy recommendations

were forthcoming from Merrill Lynch, Société Générale Strauss Turnbul and Kleinwort Benson, the brokers. There was also heavy turnover in the warrants with the 1997 climbing 4 1/2p to 20 1/2p. The 1998 series was 4 1/2p firmer at 4 1/2p as 818,141 were traded.

Heavy turnover was also recorded in GEC as brokers



shares of rival Philip Morris on Wall Street, where the group has been enjoying something of a re-rating.

Microvite lost more than a quarter of its £22 million stock market value as the share price dived 7 1/2p to 20p after the company announced that profits will be "significantly" below expectations.

Digital Animations Group fell 14p to 86 1/2p after giving warning that delays in launching Steel Legion's first computer game, will hit first-half profits. API Group, the packaging and coatings specialist where Mike Smith is chief executive, held steady at 700p after recording its fourth consecutive improvement in annual profits. Profits at the pre-tax level rose 30 per cent to a record £10.85 million. The group was also bullish about the current year.

Greycoat, the property developer, slipped 2p to 154p as Moorfields Estates abandoned its bid after failing to reach agreement over price. Moorfields closed 1/2p dearer at 30p.

A profits setback during the first half left Cardco Engineering nursing a fall of 48 1/2p at 202 1/2p. It blamed the fall on problems at its Lee Steel division and is gloomy about trading prospects generally. But a slide in profits failed to dampen Electronic Data Processing. It ended 13p stronger at 72 1/2p.

Sage Group, the computer software specialist, was a firm market, climbing 13 1/2p to 518 1/2p before full-year figures this morning.

GILF-EDGED: The London market clawed back most of Friday's losses with the help of firm overseas bond markets. In thin trading prices were squeezed higher to close near their best of the day.

In the futures pit, the March series of the long gilt climbed 1 1/2p to finish at £109 1/2p. That compares with the low of £108 1/2p on Friday. A total of 32,000 contracts were completed.

Treasury 8 per cent 2015 put on 8 1/2p, closing at £102 1/2p, while among shorter-dated coupons, Treasury 8 per cent 2001 was 8 1/2p better at £103 1/2p.

NEW YORK: Shares on Wall Street reversed Friday's decline as investors put Alan Greenspan's warning behind them. By midday the Dow Jones industrial average stood at 6,418.84, up 36.90 points.

MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):	
Dow Jones	6418.84 (+36.90)
S&P Composite	744.12 (+4.52)
Tokyo:	
Nikkei Average	20623.71 (+327.01)
Hong Kong:	
Hang Seng	13144.20 (+1.50)
Amsterdam:	
AEX Index	623.90 (+1.64)
Sydney:	
ASX 200	2239.8 (+25.01)
Frankfurt:	
DAX	2857.34 (+6.28)
Singapore:	
SEAC	2197.13 (+6.74)
Brussels:	
General	10481.10 (+72.42)
Paris:	
CAC-40	2255.84 (+13.12)
Zurich:	
SIX	851.40 (+0.00)

London:	
FT 100	4011.6 (+48.6)
FTSE 250	1963.13 (+18.91)
FTSE 350	1991.8 (+22.5)
FTSE Europe 100	1869.86 (+22.68)
FT All-Share	1963.13 (+18.91)
FT New Financials	1942.71 (+25.57)
FT Food Index	117.08 (+0.04)
FT Govt Secs	94.15 (+0.25)
Bargain:	
SEAQ Volume	549.4m
USM (Ocasystm)	189.76 (+0.78)
US	1.6673 (+0.0005)
German Mark	2.5642 (+0.0002)
Exchange Index	93.0 (+1.0)
Bank of England official rate (4pm)	5.1277
LIBOR	1.181
RPI	153.8 Oct (2.7%) Jan 1997=100
RPIX	153.6 Oct (3.3%) Jan 1997=100

RECENT STOCKS

Access Plus (N)	100%
Advanced Power Cn	75
Archer Dedicated	100
Brands Hatch Ltd	100
Brit Allcoft	146%
Cadentree	229%
Car Group	181%
Charterhouse (S)	61%
Dorm TIL Dust	121%
Druid Corp	30%
Easter Inv	97%
Finsbury Intl Hedge	6%
First Russian Fm C	57%
Future Int Tele (115)	126%
Goabank Inc	122%
Grantham Hldgs	129%
Kerr River	154%
Oliver Ashworth	151%
Provent (125)	125
Recycling Servs	98%
Scot Highland Rls	138
Second St David Inc	11%
Second St David Inc	11%
Sample Cochrane	213%
Snakeboard (S)	34

Blocompables n/p	185
Bodycote n/p (600)	107%
INVESTCO US n/p	46%
Mega Group n/p (600)	16
Regellan n/p (30)	14
Starks n/p (82)	54

FISER:	
Abbey National	801p (+10p)
BTR	249p (+11p)
Lloyds TSB	415p (+8p)
BAT	478p (+25p)
Elect Data Proc	72p (+13p)

FALLS:	
Cardco Eng	202p (-48p)
Cadbury	477p (-9p)

Closing Prices Page 30

TEMPUS

BBA's perfect landing

BBA has scaled back its ambitions since it was forced to scupper its bid for Lucas last summer. Its Christmas present is an aero-engineering business based in Dallas, International Airframe has none of Lucas's kudos, but it is an elegant fit. It will counterbalance BBA's strength in the business aviation service sector with a new emphasis on engine work. Roberto Quarta, the native New Yorker who is BBA's chief executive, wants to create a one-stop shop for corporate jet pilots. Engine troubles will be solved while the cabin is vacuuumed. This is a long way from the glamour of Lucas - but this will actually work.

Lucas was twice the size of BBA and Mr Quarta was rightly told by shareholders to get his jets off George Simpson's lawn. Mr Simpson has since moved on and so has BBA. Rather than trying to bolt the Lucas house on

to the BBA garage, Mr Quarta is now singing the synergies song. Combining the sites of BBA and International Airframe across America should improve both the geographical coverage and the customer base. There are also plans for joint engine, fuel, aircraft maintenance and marketing programmes. But Mr Quarta still has not achieved the goal set by his shareholders: giving BBA focus after the near-death experience from which he saved the group.

He has neatly assembled three divisions in which BBA is a leading world player: aviation, friction materials and non-woven textiles, each with sales of about £400 million. However, the group's electrical products division is half the size and much more messy than the other three. "Spare no Quarta" still has work to do.

Carlo

AFTER decades of sailing through recession, market downturns and hikes in the price of raw materials, Carlo's has been bedeviled by a new, strange phenomenon: the collapse in the price of stainless steel.

Until recently, the price of Sheffield's native metal plotted an enviable straight course. Carlo's shares have followed suit, clinging with loyalty around the market index.

Now, with the shine quickly fading from the stainless steel market, all bets for Carlo's future are off. Now is not the time to test nerves in the City, and the company has lost 20 per cent of its market value as a result.

However, it is not starting into the abyss. Its problems stem from stainless steel buyers who have been run-

ning down their own reserves since the market started shaking six months ago. Until they return to the market, prices will remain shaky and Carlo's margins will remain razor thin.

But private steel reserves cannot last forever. When the buyers are eventually forced back to the market, prices will recover and

Carlo's sails will catch the wind once more.

The lessons will, however, not be forgotten. Investors now know that the company's progress is dictated by an unpredictable market. Even after stainless steel prices recover, Carlo's rating must now take this new-found uncertainty into account.

Mulberry

MULBERRY, the leather goods and clothes group, has its sights set on world domination. From its picturesque base in Somerset, the group wants to become a home-grown Gucci, in other words a brand name that well-heeled consumers will snap up from Shepton Mallet to Japan.

It appears to be making all the right moves. Sales are strongly ahead this year and its new shop in Bond Street is beating forecasts and expected to be profitable in its first year.

With the traditionally stronger second half to come, including the current Christmas spending spree, a first-half loss of £480,000 is in line with expectations.

The group is looking for more UK outlets, is focusing on Germany as a new key market and has linked up with Moonbat, a large Japanese fashion retailer, to open six stores. Mulberry floated

on the AIM in May, arriving with a £30 million price tag. With a 25-year track record before going public, Mulberry has already carved its niche in the United Kingdom.

For the full year Mulberry's house brokers are looking for profits of £2.4 million with earnings of 8.1p and a total dividend of 2p. Fueling growth will be the increased sales income from the UK and overseas markets, as well as the benefits of its recent investment in production facilities at its Somerset base.

The shares, floated at 153p, have touched a high of 188p this year but promise further growth as the Mulberry ripens and makes its name.

Ockham Holdings should have been relieved yesterday when markets rallied after Friday's six-hour wobble. But its anxiety attack seemed to worsen as the FT-SE moved

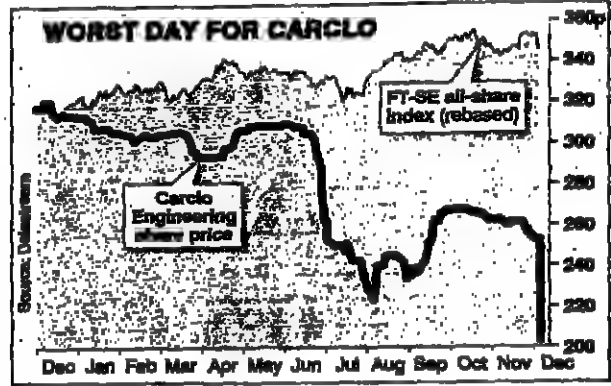
back through 4,000 and it deferred the flotation of Wise Speke.

Or maybe it had found a good excuse to pull the float. It has found that institutional investors wanted nothing to do with a private client stockbroker ahead of a bear market, something it surely could have worked out three weeks ago.

Ockham says it can still set up a share option scheme to incentivise Wise Speke staff and, after the sale of its aviation and non-marine Lloyd's insurance business to ACE, will have sufficient capital to back any Wise Speke expansion plans.

So why bother? If it was right to float Wise Speke in November, what has changed since then? Either Ockham is holding something back or it has made a hasty decision.

Either way, private investors are unlikely to be impressed by a company that retreats after a six-hour fall in markets.



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■ VISUAL ART

Intensely charged memories of landscapes and people: Howard Hodgkin displayed at the Hayward



■ CD CHOICE

Claudio Abbado comes out top in Building a Library's survey of Berg's opera *Wozzeck*

THE TIMES
ARTS



■ POP

Neneh Cherry stirs up the Shepherds Bush crowd on her long-awaited first British tour



■ TOMORROW

Follow that Richard Eyre talks about his plans for life after the National Theatre

VISUAL ART: Richard Cork is overwhelmed by the Hayward's Howard Hodgkin retrospective. Plus other shows

The master and all he surveys

Like all artists worth bothering about, Howard Hodgkin presents us with a singular and absorbing world. Entering the Hayward Gallery, where a selection of his work from the past two decades is now on view, we find ourselves caught up at once in its flaring, sensuous intensity. Only four recent paintings hang in the first room, a space so wide and lofty that it might easily dwarf the exhibits displayed there. But Hodgkin's pictures hold their positions with panache.

The title of the painting on the end wall, *In Memory of Max Gordon*, refers to an architect who excelled at designing limpid galleries for contemporary art. Dominated by an immense, wavelike rhythm, arrested at the moment before breaking, it is one of Hodgkin's most impetuous images. So the act of remembrance announced in the title is not a funeral affair. It turns out to be charged with exuberant energy, and any thought of a mournful keening is swept aside by the forcefulness of Hodgkin's mark-making.

Although memory lies at the centre of his concerns, he never wallows in a nostalgic attempt to preserve the past. Recollections of people, art-filled interiors, landscapes, sexual encounters and much else besides fuel his imagination. But they only provide him with a springboard, and the original subject undergoes a mysterious, often tantalising transformation. The time Hodgkin takes to finish a picture has become legendary: *Snapshot*, the most satisfying work in the first room, defied the apparent immediacy of its title by taking nine years to complete. The elusiveness of memory must help to account for the struggles involved in these ruminative procedures. It seems to play tricks on him, demanding to be altered and then changed again before a resolution is eventually achieved. But Hodgkin never hides the vicissitudes his work goes through. To look at his paintings is to become aware of the layers embedded within them.

One of the earliest paintings on show, *Grantchester Road*, proves a helpful introduction to Hodgkin's teasing and allusive world. Taking as its subject a house belonging to Colin St John Wilson, the distinguished architect and collector, he allows the strong rectilinear forms of the building to dominate the picture-space. Scale is established by the inclusion of a figure, apparently the artist himself, half obli-

ated by a black oblong. He stands there like a reluctant actor on a stage, but the festive colours deployed in much of the painting give it a celebratory mood.

As the exhibition proceeds, he abandons the distant vantage retained in *Grantchester Road* and closes more greedily on his quarries. The Matisse-like device of a window is often adopted, for Hodgkin frames many of his images with a thick, dark border. But the activity within this forceful surround does not become remote. Far from it, the forms appear to press themselves against us, and the aura of intimacy is sometimes claustrophobic. In a *Crowded Room* typifies this feeling of jostle and sway, of insistent forms colliding with each other in a perpetual state of restlessness.

Even so, the emotional range in Hodgkin's work is remarkable for its breadth. At the heart of *Jealousy* lurks a small, worm-like shape, curved and festering on a yellow ground showered with pale green dots. It appears to be positioned at the far end of a series of receding frames, but there is no sense of evisceration. The source of feeling remains vividly alive, infecting everything with its poison.

An impassioned artist at all times, Hodgkin savours his experiences with irrepressible verve. *It Can't be True* lives up to its title by setting the painted frame at a lurching angle, implying astonishment and disorientation. But the vivacity of Hodgkin's loosely applied brushstrokes prevents the picture from degenerating into dismay. The brushstrokes are so alive that they counter gloom with every thrust, swerve and lunge.

In an age when large paintings have become the norm, he often defies convention by achieving unexpected monumentality in paintings of surprisingly modest dimensions. *Veritas Sunset* is scarcely more than 10in square, and yet the darkening, ominous orb suspended within it seems to transcend its physical size and take on a looming, apocalyptic vastness.

Some of the small paintings show Hodgkin at his most concise, limiting himself to a near-minimal simplicity. In large pictures, by contrast, he can give vent to a love of bravura display. True to its title, *Lovers* explodes in a great rush of scarlet and green, pushing outward until it splashes over the edge of the black painted frame. As for an exclamationary work called *Keith and Kathy Sachs*, commissioned by a pair of Philadelphia collectors to commemorate their wedding anni-



"An unbridled picture such as *Keith and Kathy Sachs* (1988-91) shows how far Hodgkin has escaped from English emotional inhibition"

versary, its principal forms sway, undulate and revolve within a deliciously ornamental frame peppered with stabs of orange. Such an unbridled, even shameless picture proves how far Hodgkin has escaped from English tastefulness and emotional inhibition. For all his love of contemplation, revision and delay, he can be a marvellously abandoned painter whose brilliance as a colourist

enables his work to sing across the long vistas in the Hayward's opened-up rooms.

Hodgkin's finest pictures have a heraldic impact, emblazoning the ceremonies of life with a fervour that belongs to the present, not the past. Therein lies the central paradox of his art. Although he is preoccupied with transience, and the summoning of moments that have gone for ever, the experience he offers is

continually vibrant. The paintings may be based on recollections of events as fugitive as the passing of a cloud, the sudden eruption of strong, short-lived feelings, or the excited discovery of clean sheets.

But the works themselves are the very opposite of fleeting. Executed on wood panels projecting from the walls like sculptural objects in their own right, they are the sturdiest of memorials. Flux is both evoked and

halted on these chunky surfaces, where the joins and cracks are often frankly exposed. However elusive the original subject may have been, it takes on a solidity and a satisfying sense of finality. That is why Hodgkin becomes so rewarding, a painter who deserves to be cherished.

● Howard Hodgkin, sponsored by TDI, at the Hayward Gallery, South Bank, London SE1 (0171-928 3144) until Feb 23

AROUND THE GALLERIES

PEOPLE have obviously been asked questions about the millennium: what they look forward to and how they look back. In her exhibition, Gillian Wearing continues her special relationship with documentation. This time the show has no sound or video: it consists of photographs of people coupled with photographs of notes or letters in which they lay down their own account. "In the next four years coming up I am going to exchange my bike for a different bike" is one of the statements under a group photograph of young men. A gay man and his friend sit on a sofa: the written account underneath mentions a dream of setting up home together by the sea. A not very literate man, photographed with a handkerchief over his face, tells of the terrible things he has done "in and out of jail". Wearing manages, once again, to convey the upsetting atmosphere of life without apparent involvement or manipulation on her part. Gillian Wearing *New Work*, Interim Art, 21 Becks Road, London E8 (0171-254 9607) until Jan 25

□ IT is possible to sit in an alcove at Gimpel Fils Gallery, exactly opposite the one picture on show, Albert Irvin painted *Ely*, which is very large indeed, in response to time spent working in Ireland. The picture carries a good deal more obvious reference than usual: the roundels and details of Dublin's Georgian architecture are conveyed with apparent simplicity in blisteringly opaque and translucent colour. Emeralds and reds or an area of eau de nil, for instance, are applied with a brush stroke the width of a broom. Albert Irvin, *Gimpel Fils*, 30 Davies Street London W1 (0171-493 2488) until Jan 18

□ THE exhibition may initially appear simple, even slight, but the text on the walls is elaborate, full and rich. Five excerpts from the beginnings of short plays by Chekhov have been drawn in pencil by Juan Cruz in perfect print and presented in faint clusters of varying sizes. The Russian names are in capitals and the promise of a maze of narrative and action is instant and undeniable. Juan Cruz, *Genesis*, 43 Charterhouse Square, London EC1 (0171-600 7799), until Jan 18

SACHA CRADDOCK

Settling for the big time

Having left it rather late in her solo career to start touring, Neneh Cherry has found herself on the horns of a dilemma. Should she stick with her vaguely hip hop, homegirl roots and try to woo the young, clubbing crowd, or does she pitch herself at a more mature, mainstream audience with a traditional rock'n'roll show?

Neneh Cherry Empire, W12

Rounding off her first British dates at Shepherds Bush on Sunday, the Anglo-Swedish-Afro-American star opted firmly for the latter, producing an upbeat, rabble-rousing set that was more Tina Turner than Tricky.

It started tastefully enough, with a sparse arrangement of her 1989 hit, *Manchild*, complete with twitchy little "baby" noises deftly coaxed from a pair of record decks by Simon Richmond, one of the artists to emerge from the ultra-hip Mo Wax stable of dance acts. Here was the Cherry of popular legend, strutting with quick, purposeful movements across the stage in clumpy new trainers and an eccentric blue dress which looked as if it had been run up by Björk's seamstress in the dark. Above her a selection of glitterballs hung amid a forest of thick ropes, dangling over the stage like lianas in a jungle, while around her a seven-piece band provided firm but discreet support.

"People tell me you can't come to England and play rock music any more, but I can only do what I do," she said by way of an introduction to



Dressed like Björk and sounding more Tina Turner than Tricky: Neneh Cherry onstage at the Empire

Hornbeam, which seemed to be a signal for the band to start cranking up into a more conventional heavy rock mode.

There was still plenty of variety among the songs that followed, which included a soulful rendition of her recent hit *Woman*, an urgent reprise of Marvin Gaye's *Trouble Man*, and a heartfelt performance of *Carry Me*, parts of which she sang sitting on a chair. But, as the band steadily built up momentum, such subtleties were gradually ironed out, and the version of her biggest hit, *7 Seconds*, complete with wailing guitar

solo, left little room for the aching emotion and sense of mystery that distinguished the original.

Still, there was no doubting the energy she put into the show, nor its effect on the crowd, which rewarded her efforts with a tumultuous ovation. The encores provided a momentary return to a simpler delivery, with the acoustic guitar and drum-machine arrangement of *Golden Ring*, before the forceful rap of *Money Love* gave way to the final, full-frontal assault of *Inna City Mamma*.

DAVID SINCLAIR

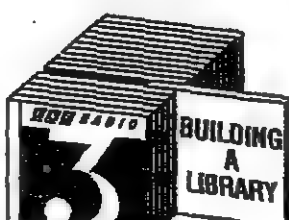
A guide to the best available recordings, presented in conjunction with Radio 3

BERG'S WOZZECK

reviewed by Stephen Walsh

Alban Berg saw the Viennese premiere of his play *Wozzeck* in 1914 and started his opera soon afterwards. It took eight years to complete and much longer to enter the operatic repertoire, where it now ranks as one of the most powerful and influential modern masterpieces. Berg's hero (Wozzeck, because the play's first editor misread Büchner's barely legible manuscript) is the original downtrodden soldier, tormented by his officers, treated as a guinea-pig by his doctor, and cuckolded by a mindless drum-major. In one of the most heart-rending episodes in all opera, he cuts his mistress's throat, then drowns in the pool where he is trying to dispose of the knife.

Disturbingly beautiful as it is, *Wozzeck* is hard to put together in performance, not least because of its rangy atonal vocal lines and extensive use of *Sprechgesang* (speech-song). Of the five current recordings, three are from live performances, while the two studio versions both have casting problems. The famous Karl Böhm recording (DG 435 705-2 on three discs with the two-act version of *Lulu*) remains a classic — measured, controlled, beautifully played — but with a *Wozzeck* (Dietrich Fischer-Dieskau) and Marie (Evelyn Lear) who are simply too civilised by half. The other studio version, with the Vienna Philharmonic



under Christoph von Dohnányi (Decca 417 384-2), has the best Marie (Anja Silja) but a colourless Wozzeck in Eberhard Waechter, and the recording is lifeless.

For atmosphere, one turns to the live recordings. They include a respectable Leipzig concert from the 1970s under Herbert Kegel (Berlin Classics 0020692 BC), but the serious choice lies between Claudio Abbado's Vienna recording (DG 432 587-2, £17.49) and a recent version from the Chereau production in Berlin, conducted by Daniel Barenboim (Teldec 0630-14108-2). The Barenboim is the more even, with a superb Wozzeck in Franz Grundheber, a well-sung personable Marie in Waltraud Meier, and solid playing by the Berlin Staatskapelle.

But I can't resist Abbado's thrilling version, also with Grundheber and marvellous support (apart from Hildegard Behren's too Wagnerian Marie). Sensational playing by the Vienna Philharmonic is highlighted by a recording which, eccentrically, keeps the voices back, but compensates with orchestral immediacy.

● To order the recommended recording, with free delivery, please send a cheque payable to The Times Music Shop to FREEPOST, SCO681, Forres, IV36 0BR or phone 0345 023 498; e-mail: music@the-times.co.uk

● Next Saturday on Radio 3 (8am): A Toscanini survey

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CHANGING TIMES



■ OPERA 1

Golden memory: the Royal Opera made its first appearance 50 years ago this week...



■ OPERA 2

... but why have links between Covent Garden's dancers and singers all but disappeared since Ashton's day?

THE TIMES
ARTS



■ DANCE

Flocking to the ballet: Raymond Gubbay backs the biggest *Swan Lake* in Britain at the Albert Hall



■ THEATRE

Prostitution's ugly face is all too graphically revealed in *I Licked a Slag's Deodorant*

OPERA AND DANCE: The first days of Covent Garden recalled; and a mammoth *Swan Lake* previewed

Why can't they work together?

This week's Covent Garden gala, honouring Placido Domingo, is billed as celebrating the first appearance of the Royal Opera 50 years ago. Well, up to a point. Singers from the as-yet-unseen Covent Garden Opera did take part in *The Fairy Queen* on December 12, 1946, but they were listed in the programmes below the Sadler's Wells Ballet, and I guess that most of us who were at the premiere remember it principally for the dancing.

Contes, that night's *Carmen*, was reported as remarking afterwards in the pub opposite the stage door: "Well, I've been booed by better audiences than that one!"

What strikes me, looking back, is how different the relationship between opera and ballet was then. Nowadays one strong impression is that, at least in London, far fewer people watch both. The proliferation of companies and the cost of seats must be factors, but there is also a silly snobbery about ballet on the part of many opera people. Opera and ballet once took each other more seriously. The dances in operas were by leading choreographers, Virzide de Valois and John Cranko as well as Ashton. Now even the ballet companies do not have such talents available.

Opera and ballet once took each other seriously

In fact the production was neither opera nor ballet, but a revival of a form once typically English, although modern audiences find it uncomfortable: a masque.

When the opera company really got going on its own account the following January (with a *Carmen* whose chorus included Geraint Evans), I wonder whether it ranked that the greatest applause was for Beryl Grey's solo dance outside the building. No wonder Edith

want to go back to the kind of music-theatre that existed in the form of masque or *comédie-ballet* before dancing and singing went their separate ways. But the profusion of experiments in new kinds of music-theatre suggests that there is still scope for collaboration. I find it worrying, however, that on a larger scale the two arts are not helping each other. Too often ballets are cut from operas, damaging the balance of a work (eg. the recent *Don Carlos*), or they are done in a less than satisfactory way (every production of *The Midsummer Marriage* that I have seen except the very first). Producers and designers often show no understanding of dance's needs.

When companies do get things



The 1946 production of *The Fairy Queen*: "neither opera nor ballet, but a revival of a form once typically English: a masque"

right, the effect can be tremendous. It is a good while since ENO tackled *The Seven Deadly Sins*, but the property balanced mix of singing and dancing they achieved then was memorably satisfying, making this hybrid work come alive more clearly than any concert or purely balletic staging. Similarly, giving full scope to the dance element made ENO's recent *Fairy Queen* great fun in its idiosyncratic way, even if some opera critics were snooty about it.

Sometimes, actually, there is a case for letting dance take pride of place. Gluck's *Orpheus and Eurydice* was written as a collaboration with the choreographer Angiolini. Not many can have seen Balanchine's 1936 staging at the Met in

New York, banishing singers to the pit while his dancers performed on stage in wonderful costumes by Tchelichev. It had only two showings, but accounts and photographs of it can still thrill the imagination.

Balanchine provides an example, too, of how an opera with dance can respond to different treatments. He directed the opera in Hamburg, including a long ballet that was given in period costumes. Later he adapted this same ballet for a Paris production during Rolf Liebermann's regime as director. I recall how startling it was when the singing finished and the chorus walked off stage revealing the dancers in simple white and gold costumes. This time, ready to end

the evening with a complete ballet in praise of love.

This ballet was substantial enough for the Hamburg and Paris companies both to give it separately once the opera's run had ended, and in enlarged form (under the title *Chaconne*) it also entered New York City Ballet's repertoire. Yet my own eyes and ears told me that it worked perfectly, if unconventionally, in an operatic context. And of course Covent Garden itself once had a noble staging of *Orpheus* with Kathleen Ferrier, directed and choreographed by Ashton.

One important point is that apart from Richard Alston for ENO's *Seven Deadly Sins* and Quinny Sacks for its *Fairy Queen*, the choreographers I have mentioned

worked in classical ballet, which can have special affinity with the artificialities of opera. But I must mention another modernist, Pina Bausch, whose entirely danced treatment of Gluck's *Iphigenia auf Tauris* was, for me, the dance highlight of this year's Edinburgh Festival, showing the action in powerful dramatic performances by her Wuppertal Dance Theatre while the singers occupied the stage boxes. So, no easy generalisations about ballet versus contemporary dance. Both have much to offer opera if given the right opportunities — and vice versa.

JOHN PERCIVAL
Covent Garden's Gala is being televised live on Thursday (BBC2, 7pm)

Swan Lake's overflow

TCHAIKOVSKY did not live long enough to see his first ballet achieve the recognition it deserved. It wasn't until after his death in 1893 that first Russia, and then the world, woke up to the genius of *Swan Lake*. But Tchaikovsky would be even more surprised to discover that a century later his once-neglected ballet is setting new records.

Yesterday English National Ballet announced plans to present "the largest *Swan Lake* ever staged in Britain". The arena production, using more than 120 artists, will take place in the Albert Hall next spring. Derek Deane, ENB's artistic director, will stage *Swan Lake* in the round, with lighting by Patrick Woodroffe and designs by Peter Farmer.

Deane's partners in this new enterprise are Patrick Deuchar, chief executive of the Albert Hall, and Raymond Gubbay, the man who helped to make "arena opera" so popular in Britain. There will be 12 performances of *Swan Lake* between May 29 and June 11, and guest artists include Alynna Asymura-tova, the Kirov's leading ballerina, Roberto Bolle from La Scala, Milan, and Anna Seidl from Dutch National Ballet.

Meanwhile in the West End an "alternative" *Swan Lake* is also setting records. Matthew Bourne's unorthodox and highly enjoyable staging has been packing them in at the Piccadilly Theatre since September 11. Bourne's Olivier Award-winning version has just passed the 100-performance mark and can now claim to be the longest run of a single ballet ever to play the West End. Tchaikovsky would be pleased.

DEBRA CRAINE

THEATRE: Benedict Nightingale on another unlovely Royal Court title

Wretched lives, barren ground

THE temporary move that the Royal Court's Theatre Upstairs has made from sedate Sloane Square to the grimy rim of Soho has done something odd to the titles of the

work it is presenting. The other day there was *Shopping and Fucking*; now there is Jim Cartwright's repellently named new play. Maybe it is time for a competition. A

magnum of stomach acid to whoever invents a title more likely to upset the queasy and/or provoke comment within the dirty-mac classes than *I Licked a Slag's Deodorant*.

Certainly, it is more to be recommended to the mac market than to those of genteel disposition, for it exposes the sadness and ugliness of the prostitute's world in a usefully offputting way. Of the two characters, one is called Man and the other Slag, and neither seems to know or care what their real names are. She works the bargain-basement end of the tart trade, presumably at King's Cross, using her

doubt that they lead wretched, sickening lives.

At best it is as if one of Beckett's short laments for human waste had been rejigged by the Cartwright who wrote the scabrous *Road*; but, though the piece lasts less than an hour, it gives the impression of treading and receding the same barren ground. Both performers are excellent. Tim Potter, in an old



Slag meets Man: Polly Hemingway, Tim Potter

drab suit, resembles the sort of dead prawn that gives you food poisoning. Polly Hemingway, in black plastic mini-skirt, keeps her face in full hatchet mode.

Yet by the time he had elected to live under her bed, listening to the heaving springs and sniffing the cocaine-dust, I had had enough of their company. Their author had said all he wanted to say. I had learnt all I felt like learning.

I Licked a Slag's Deodorant Ambassador's

spare time to smoke crack or haunt discos. He has sex of sorts with her, gets beaten up, and sits on a half-made bed wearing a deodorant-soaked bra as a mask.

We learn a bit about how Man came to be Man. His past includes a possessive mother, anoraks and brown cardigans, Swiss rolls in front of the telly, and much nerdish loneliness. Slag's background, apart from "bastard" parents in Barnsley, is more obscure. But both characters allow Cartwright to exploit the language of sexual hatred and fill the theatre with talk of cock-roaches and condoms, among less mentionable matters. Occasionally their monologues get a little literary — "men have your body like a finger buffet" — but they leave you in absolutely, but absolutely no

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LAW

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Do we pay judges enough? Frances Gibb finds that the answer could well be no



Judges at Westminster Abbey at the start of the legal year. But will the attraction wane if the rewards are not high enough?

Judges wanted: pay poor

Who'd be a judge? Overworked and underpaid — and the butt of often ill-informed criticism from the media. Judges are starting to view their lot minus their tinted spectacles.

Many of the perks of the Bench — status, grand lodgings on circuit, a pension after 15 years and, of course, a good salary — have gone, or are no longer seen as perks. How many younger judges enjoy spending six weeks at a time on circuit away from their families, even if they are waited on hand and foot?

Judges' work is changing. More is expected, both in terms of hours worked and in what they do. Lord Woolf, the Master of the Rolls, has launched what he called a "blitz" to clear the backlog of applications before the Court of Appeal's civil division. It means the Court of Appeal judges in each of the court's ten divisions will work overtime by starting their court day earlier.

On top of all this, judges are preparing for the biggest change in their working conditions for decades. Under Lord Woolf's reforms to the civil justice system, they are to become trial managers, actively controlling the pace of litigation through timetables and deadlines. It will mean a new, proactive attitude, more administration and a big training exercise. The changes may make the work more challenging. But they come when the gap between earnings at the top of the private profession and on the Bench has probably never been wider.

Lord Bingham of Cornhill, the Lord Chief Justice, gave a warning recently that this could lower the quality of judicial recruits, and in turn weaken the judiciary. In a keynote address to the Judicial Studies Board, he said there was a subtle link between remuneration and judicial independence. In most societies, there was a perceived relationship between what someone earns and their status or prestige. "Financial rewards

Judges' salaries are kept in line roughly with those of senior civil servants and as such they have kept pace with inflation. The Senior Salaries Review Body (SSRB) makes recommendations and the Government usually, but not always, agrees. In 1992 the body recommended a 20 per cent pay rise, and the Government awarded 4 per cent.

But if judges' pay has kept pace with inflation, it has dropped far below the earnings at the top of the profession. In 1982, Lord Bingham said, High Court judges were paid £5,000 — £250,000 in

they accept, have a responsible job, but they have long holidays (circuit judges sit 200 days a year) and a pension, albeit after 20 years. High Court judges, too, have a livelihood. There will always be a gap in earnings between the Bench and the profession: the question is whether it is so wide as to harm recruitment. Lord Bingham stopped short of saying it was, although that might happen, he said, if what had been called a "dispiriting chasm" became too deep.

But Lord Justice Saville said: "I think the pay would put off the younger barristers in their mid to late 40s who still have some years of extremely high earnings. People I know, who would have been very good, have turned down the Bench for financial reasons, although there are enough good people at the moment who are prepared to make the financial sacrifice."

David Perry-Davey, QC, the Bar Chairman, agrees. "There is the view, as with MPs, that you get no thanks for doing a very tough job and are likely to be subjected to ill-informed criticism, some of it extreme and very personal," he said. "Some may be justified, but people's willingness to take that sort of flak is affected."

The SSRB is now conducting a fundamental review of judges' salaries. In its 1995 report, the body noted evidence of increasing workloads: district judges, for instance, had a 32 per cent rise

Unless the rewards are sufficient, the ranks of the judiciary must be filled by the second-best

are not, of course, everything," he said, "but nor are they nothing."

"Unless the rewards of judicial office... are sufficient to attract the ablest candidates to accept appointment, albeit with some financial sacrifice, the ranks of the judiciary must be filled by the second-best, those who under our system have failed to make it in private practice." The result would be a "lowering in the standing and reputation of the judiciary", and a loss of the "qualities of confidence and courage" on which judicial independence depends.

modern terms. That sum stayed the same for 122 years. By 1954, when it was increased, it was no longer "princely" and had, he said, become "inadequate."

Lord Justice Saville, a Court of Appeal judge who came from the Commercial Bar, where earnings are highest, said: "I do think there is a problem over the ratio between what reasonably successful people can earn at the Bar and what they get paid as a judge."

For most people, judges' pay — £104,415 at High Court level — is unimpressive. Judges

Why Britain needs a Bill of Rights

The week before last, another senior legal figure added his voice to the growing chorus of support for incorporating the European Convention on Human Rights into domestic law. Lord Steyn, the law lord, said the time to decide the issue had come. If this would mean a "great transfer of political power to the judges", he would oppose it, but he added: "It will mean nothing of the kind. It will simply mean that issues of alleged abuses of human rights law will be tried in our courts rather than in Strasbourg."

There are many compelling reasons why the Convention on Human Rights should be incorporated into domestic law. These reasons have always existed. What is new is the current momentum for change. This momentum is reflected in a new and stimulating collection of essays, *Human Rights in the United Kingdom* (all advocating incorporation or similar), by distinguished judges, jurists and other commentators. In it Lord Bingham of Cornhill, the Lord Chief Justice, argues that there is an immediate need for incorporation, given a parliamentary timetable in which measures to remedy violations of human rights will not, in the ordinary way, find a place in the queue. He sees a domestic Bill of Rights as no more than the "simple and obvious" way of honouring the United Kingdom's international obligations and of affording direct and relatively inexpensive protection to its citizens.

suggestion that human rights are already sufficiently protected is surely eroded by the UK's record as a Strasbourg litigant.

In similar vein, Ronald Dworkin unravels the arguments against incorporation. He also considers practical questions if the Convention were to be part of national law. For example, would judges have to work too hard? Are they up to the job? It seems that Canadian judges complained of overwork when the Canadian Charter of Human Rights was first adopted, but most now concede that the additional work is manageable. But even if the fear of judicial overwork were justified it could not, Professor Dworkin argues, be a sensible objection that it would be better to save judges the work than to ask them to help to defend the fundamental rights of British citizens.

As to whether judges are up to the job, he argues first that the Tory outrage against recent judicial review decisions suggests that



RICHARD GORDON, QC

The arguments against incorporation, though intellectually coherent, lack pragmatic force. In a powerful contribution Lord Bingham analyses and refutes them. It has, for example, been said that what one sovereign Parliament enacts, another sovereign Parliament may override. This is true in theory, but the reality is very different. Whatever their theoretical status, constitutional measures such as adhesion to the European Community "are in practice regarded as enjoying a peculiar sanctity buttressed by overwhelming public support". The same would, undoubtedly, apply to human rights in codified form.

He addresses two other arguments: first, that judgments on human rights are essentially political and, therefore, not for judges to make; secondly (and arguably inconsistently), that incorporation is unnecessary because Convention rights are already protected by common law. As to the "political" nature of human rights issues, Lord Bingham rightly observes that judges regularly review and quash ministerial decisions in judicial review cases. In any case, how can it be sensible, he asks, to entrust such issues to an international panel of judges in Strasbourg but not, in the first instance, to our judges here? The

new judiciary is not simply the Government in ermine. Secondly, he points out that even if judges were insensitive to civil liberties issues nothing would have been lost by incorporation since there would simply be a failure to exercise a newly conferred power. The fact that the US Supreme Court failed to prevent Senator McCarthy's witch-hunts is no argument for the thesis that the Supreme Court should not have had the powers that, on that occasion, it did not use.

Some observers, such as John Wadham, the director of Liberty, see incorporation as the first stage in a progressive constitutional settlement. Others espouse American New Right ideas of responsibilities as well as rights in a post-incorporation world.

Whatever solution is adopted, it is fast becoming apparent that the thinking establishment has, so far as human rights are concerned, become converted to something more tangible than unwritten constitutional safeguards. This is a major shift that has taken place over the past five years. With a general election only months away, and with incorporation a part of official Labour policy, there must be a real prospect of change.

There is, though, a deeper point. For different reasons, there are many who seek to curb the powers of the judges. But this entails a consequence more stark than the supposed terrors of judicial excess. Without a constitutional foundation for the protection of human rights, every limitation on the power of the courts becomes a potential threat to liberty, freedom and the individual.

● The author specialises in judicial review and is co-editor of *Human Rights in the United Kingdom* (OUP 1996), £20.

How about the risks?

INTENSIVE lobbying over Michael Howard's Crime (Sentences) Bill is going on behind the scenes. The Chief Officers of Probation have privately met Lord Bingham of Cornhill, their first such meeting with a Lord Chief Justice, to express concern about the abolition of parole.

This will see prisoners released without assessment of the risks they may pose. Lord Bingham has his own concerns about how the Bill affects judges' sentencing powers which he is likely to voice when the Bill reaches the Lords — unless Mr Howard makes changes earlier.

Pushing for it

Lord Woolf, the Master of the Rolls, had suddenly to adjourn a test hearing over police damages in the Court of Appeal yesterday so that he could rush down to the House of Lords and speak to an amendment tabled by the Shadow Lord Chancellor,



Bingham: held meeting

Lord Irvine of Lairg. Lord Irvine and other senior legal figures have been seeking to force the Government's hand over its refusal to create a civil justice council, as urged by Lord Woolf. As it happens, Sir Jeffrey Bowman, who has been appointed to review the Court of Appeal, was sitting on the bench alongside Lord Woolf and his colleagues for a

OUTS

taste of how things work. The abrupt halting of proceedings must have been quite an eye-opener.

● WHO will take the unenviable job of Director of the Serious Fraud Office? The advertisement says that George Staple's successor must be appointed by next April. The replacement, who must be a lawyer, will earn the equivalent of a High Court judge's salary: £104,415.

Time does music

LORD TAYLOR of Gofforth's passion for music is well known. Less well known is that the former Lord Chief Justice's late wife was a firm believer in music in prisons. So much so that a registered charity, the Irene Taylor Trust, has been set up to encourage and establish the awareness and use of music "as part of the therapeutic and rehabilitative process".

The trust's first two projects

took place in the summer, when Kingston and Bristol hosted workshops on composing for prisoners and staff.

Asking for trouble

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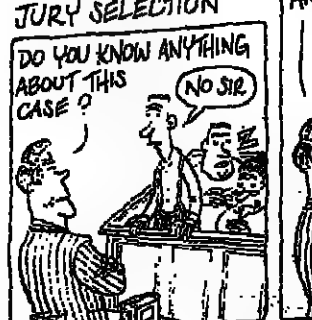
● NOT content with the Court of Appeal judges working overtime to cut the backlog of waiting applications, the High Court and Crown Court will all be working on Christmas Eve this year. They will shut only from Christmas Day to December 27 inclusive, and on New Year's Day.

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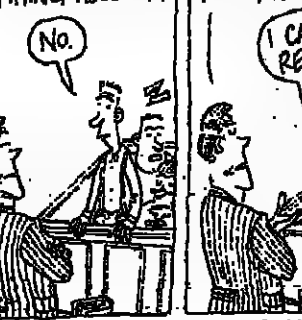
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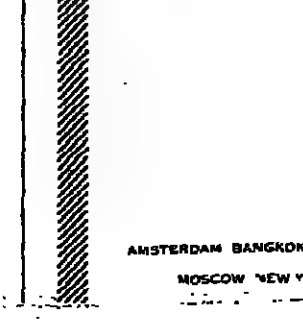
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Further details may be obtained from: Miss Lesley Hawksworth, The Specialist Training Authority of the Medical Royal Colleges, 1 Wimpole Street, London W1M 8AE. Fax 0171-495 0763.

Applicants should submit a full CV by 31 December 1996.

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all formerly of 22 Old Buildings, Lincoln's Inn, joined chambers as from 28th October 1996

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PROFESSOR MICHAEL FREEMAN

of University College London

as our academic associate member

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Gary Slapper on the involvement of the courts in matters of life and death

"Thou shalt not kill but need'st not strive officiously to keep alive"
Arthur Hugh Clough

The point at which someone's incapacity or suffering is such that they can be legally allowed to die by withdrawing life-support is now a fevered issue. Sophisticated medical procedures and technology, intensified moral and ethical debates, and limited healthcare resources have combined to give unprecedented controversy to Clough's dictum.

In 1993 the House of Lords declared it was lawful for Airedale Health Service Trust to discontinue life-sustaining treatment in the case of Tony Bland, the Hillsborough victim who had been left in a permanent vegetative state (PVS).

There is a high level of public support for such practice. In the British Social Attitudes Survey published last month, 86 per cent of respondents agreed that, with the consent of relatives, euthanasia would be justified in a case of a patient in a coma without hope of regaining consciousness.

The legal boundaries in this area are slowly shifting. A recent Court of Appeal stretched the applicability of Clough's couplet by ruling that when parents had declined possible lifesaving surgery for their 18-month-old son the "reasonableness" of their view was not the primary issue for the court. In the very special circumstances of the case, the court ruled it was legally permissible to allow the child to forgo the only medical option available to save his life. And the High Court will soon be asked to sanction the withdrawal of feeding from an unconscious patient who is not in a permanent vegetative state but in a "near vegetative state" — she has been seen to "track" moving objects with her eyes and, according to current medical definitions, PVS patients cannot move their eyes on a purposeful path.

The baby in the Court of Appeal case had been born suffering from biliary atresia, a potentially fatal liver defect. Unanimous medical opinion was that the prospects of a successful transplant were good and that it was in the baby's best interests to undergo the operation when a donor became available. But the parents, both healthcare professionals with jobs in a distant Commonwealth country, did not want the operation to take place. They thought that the peaceful if short life their son would live without the operation was preferable to the suffering and consequential pain of surgery — coupled with a limited chance of success.

The court agreed. Lady Justice



Alan and Barbara Bland at the hospital bedside of their son Tony, a victim of the Hillsborough disaster

When there is life without hope

Butler-Sloss recognised that to prolong life was not "the sole objective of the court" and to require prolongation at the expense of other considerations might not be in a child's best interests.

The ruling, which allows a dignified end to otherwise lengthy suffering or vegetative states, raises two problems: first, the developmental nature of clinical science can mean a sudden change in definitions of PVS, or new surgical procedures offering hope to previously hopeless cases. Secondly, the danger of allowing liberal law to be utilised by a zealous health service manager. In the business of resource-saving practices.

The British Medical Association and the Royal College of Physicians have drawn up guidelines on PVS patients which condone the withdrawal of life support in some

circumstances but, nevertheless, there have been more than 15 documented cases of PVS being misdiagnosed. At least two people have also recovered from the unrecoverable PVS that doctors diagnosed.

Also relevant is the problem of resources. In 1992, Lord Donaldson, then Master of the Rolls, noted "the sad fact of life that health authorities may on occasion find that they have too few resources... to treat all the patients whom they would like to treat in the way in which they would like to treat them".

The court in that case was looking at a 16-month-old child with profound mental and physical disabilities. He was suffering from blindness, severe epilepsy, cerebral

palsy and was fed by nasogastric tube. His expectation of life was short, and the consultant paediatrician did not think it appropriate to intervene with intensive therapeutic measures if the patient suffered a life-threatening event.

The Court of Appeal agreed that the clinical judgment of the attending practitioner should prevail. It would be wrong, it said, for the High Court to make an order compelling a health authority to treat patients without knowing whether there were other patients to whom those resources "might more advantageously be devoted".

There may be some very clear cases in which courts feel reasonably confident about supporting a clinical judgment to discontinue treatment. A working group of the Royal College of Physicians has recognised that therapy is futile in some cases and "merely prolongs an insistent life for the patient and a hopeless vigil for relatives and carers". But there will be many cases that prompt a recall of the remark of Justice Asch, the New York judge who said: "There is a strident cry in America to terminate the lives of other people — deemed physically or mentally defective... Assuredly, one test of civilisation is its concern with the survival of the 'unfit'."

Dr Slapper is Principal Lecturer in Law, Staffordshire University.

Domain names: a system in dispute

Nicholas Wood
on litigation
over Web sites
on the Internet

Litigation is already beginning over the brand names taking Web sites on the Internet. A system designed to make finding such people or organisations on the Web easy is causing consternation among brand holders and intellectual property lawyers; about 50 met last month to air the problems, at a conference organised by Denton Hall, the City law firm.

National trademark legislation copes poorly with the international nature of the Internet. "Prior rights" or principles of "confusing similarity" count for little when the authorities operate on a first-come, first-served basis and allow two bodies to register titles that are separated by only a hyphen, such as "the-times.co.uk" and "thetimes.co.uk".

Every computer on the Internet has a 32-bit Internet protocol number so that other computers can find it. While computer numbers can remember these numbers, people cannot. Hence the parallel system of "domain names". These are the registered addresses of the Internet. They tell you a lot. In the above example the sub-domain (the-times) gives you the name, the domain type (.co or .org etc) tells you it belongs to a company or a not-for-profit organisation while the top level domain or country code (.uk) indicates where the company operates.

Nearly every country has a two-letter code. Because it started the Internet, America generally dispenses with a country code, relying simply on a domain type such as .com. About 8 per cent of .coms registered in America belong to non-American companies.

A unique domain name forms part of every e-mail and Web page address. The system is logical: if there were two your-company.co.uk, the delivery system would not know to whom or where to send your e-mail.

The trouble is that though the system runs to a set of international standards ratified by the Internet Society, no one is in charge. There is no authority to insist on the global review of a

disputes and exploitation. They did not foresee the rise of warehousing registrations for quick profit. Recently one UK company was offering "for sale or rent" registrations on variations of ten leading brand names.

There are also malicious registrations. Someone registers a variation of your name then insults you on a Web page that the unwary Internet user might assume to be yours. BT has recently dealt — but out of court — with one such customer.

Listed for the High Court this week is *Harrods v Michael Lawrie* and his co-defendants, who registered harrods.com in America last year. The writ Mr Lawrie received in August accused him of passing off, trademark infringement and conspiracy to injure Harrods. There have also been fierce disputes between two companies with a legitimate right to a name. First come, first served is fine until you come second.

Things can only get better. In the UK, the sheer weight of registrations is forcing changes: the new .plc and .ltd domain types are easing competition for .coms, and the introduction of registration and renewal fees has reduced malicious registrations. Companies such as Net Searchers are supplying trademark owners with a measure of protection and peace of mind through the provision of sophisticated search and tracking systems. Most important of all, Dr Willie Black, Nominet's director, recognises trademark owners as stakeholders in the development of the domain name system.

The Denton Hall symposium put forward a range of proposals. These included the introduction of a 28-day objection period post-registration, an intention to use requirement, and more information about those behind a registration. Should Nominet not take these to heart, it is possible that the operation and regulation of the UK system may be split.

The author is a director of Net Searchers, a specialist supplier of Internet searches for lawyers and trademark holders.



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Quote Ref: A/019/T Closing Date: 17 January 1997

Further particulars and details of the application procedure, may be requested from the Director of Personnel, The University of Liverpool, Liverpool L69 3BX on 0151 794 2210 or via email jobs@liv.ac.uk

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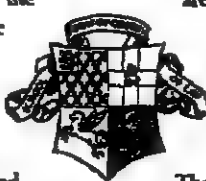
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Justice that works for all

Jonathan Parker calls for the creation of a network of civil justice centres

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The implications of that are not only administrative and financial, but also geographical. The system must be readily accessible throughout the country.

I have a particular responsibility for the Chancery Courts in the North of England. I spend about half my judicial time hearing Chancery cases in Lancaster, Leeds, Liverpool, Manchester and Newcastle upon Tyne. This has given me the opportunity to see how the civil justice system is perceived by the public, how it works (or does not work) outside London and what improvements need to be made.

The civil justice system is still considered by some to be mysterious and arcane, with little relevance to today's problems. I do not suggest that all the historical traditions of the civil justice system be swept away; but I do suggest that there is an urgent need to increase public understanding of the way in which the system works and of the service it provides.

My experience in the North has convinced me that, whatever may have been the position in the past,

there is no longer any justification for dividing civil work outside London between the Chancery Division and the Queen's Bench Division.

The overlap between the work of the two divisions outside London is nowadays very substantial — and will increase as more Mercantile Courts (formerly part of the Queen's Bench Division) are established. To my mind, the only relevant division of work outside London is between civil work on the one hand and criminal work on the other.

There is an urgent need to establish, in each of the major trial centres throughout the country, a properly resourced and properly staffed civil justice centre catering for all categories of High Court civil work (apart from family work, which forms a distinct and separate category). And dealing only with civil work. No crime. Such a centre would incorporate a Mercantile Court under the direct "hands-on" control of a resident Mercantile Judge. The work of the centre should include cases involving judicial review. To my mind, there is no justification for the present practice, whereby judicial review

cases are heard only in London — save in exceptional circumstances — and only by those 26 judges who are nominated to hear cases in the Crown Office List.

In common with all other kinds of civil litigation, judicial review cases should, where possible, be heard locally.

Provision should also be made in each civil justice centre for the resolution of disputes by mediation or arbitration. Litigation is, after all, only one of a number of possible methods of resolving civil disputes and, as is often said, it is the method of last resort.

Alternative dispute resolution is now widely recognised as a speedy, inexpensive and relatively painless way of achieving a compromise in appropriate cases.

Similarly, there are many categories of civil dispute that may be more suited to arbitration than litigation.

If litigation proves unavoidable, what the litigant — and in particular the business litigant — needs, and is entitled to expect the system to provide, is easy and fast access to a suitably qualified judge in cases of urgency. Nowadays the emphasis is more and more on interlocutory applications. It is a commonplace today for a case to be effectively decided on an interlocutory application.

This is particularly so in the context of commercial disputes, in which time means money, and few businesses can afford the luxury of waiting months or even years to find out whether or not a particular transaction stands up. The courts in London have developed fast and effective systems for dealing with interlocutory applications, and the extension of those systems to the regions represents a significant contribution to the efficient disposal of civil cases outside London.

In addition, the continuing process of establishing Mercantile Courts in major trial centres has substantially improved the service offered by the civil justice system to local business communities. One of the great attractions of a Mercantile Court to its local business community is the availability of a suitably qualified judge to hear urgent applications.

Gone are the days when civil litigation in the regions could be treated simply as something to fill the judge's list whenever there is a slackening-off in the demands of crime. The emphasis these days is, as it should be, on offering the public an efficient service for the resolution of civil disputes of all kinds — and one that is available locally.

Mr Justice Jonathan Parker is a High Court Judge and Vice-Chancellor of the County Palatine of Lancaster.



Mr Justice Parker: the civil justice system does not exist for the benefit of lawyers, nor should it be solely for those who can afford it: it must be available to every citizen who needs it

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Oliver Holt braves conditions that bring Green Bay cold comfort

Where the weather is a frozen asset

It was an hour before kick-off and up at the back of the stand, in the row behind mine, two men were huddling their heads on to the metal benches, trying to chip the ice off their seats. They wore bright orange insulated jump suits that marked them out as hunting men, refugees from the season that has just finished here. This time, though, they knew nature was stalking them.

The luminous clothes, designed to stop them being accidentally shot by other hunters, gave no extra protection. After a while, they sat down on the newspapers they had brought and turned their attention to me. I was so trussed up in T-shirts, polo necks and jumpers that I looked like the Michelin Man. I could hardly bend down to clip my rented cushion on to my seat. "You got so much stuff on," one of them said, "if you fell over, you'd roll for a week."

At least I was not alone. Down below, people were streaming into the stadium

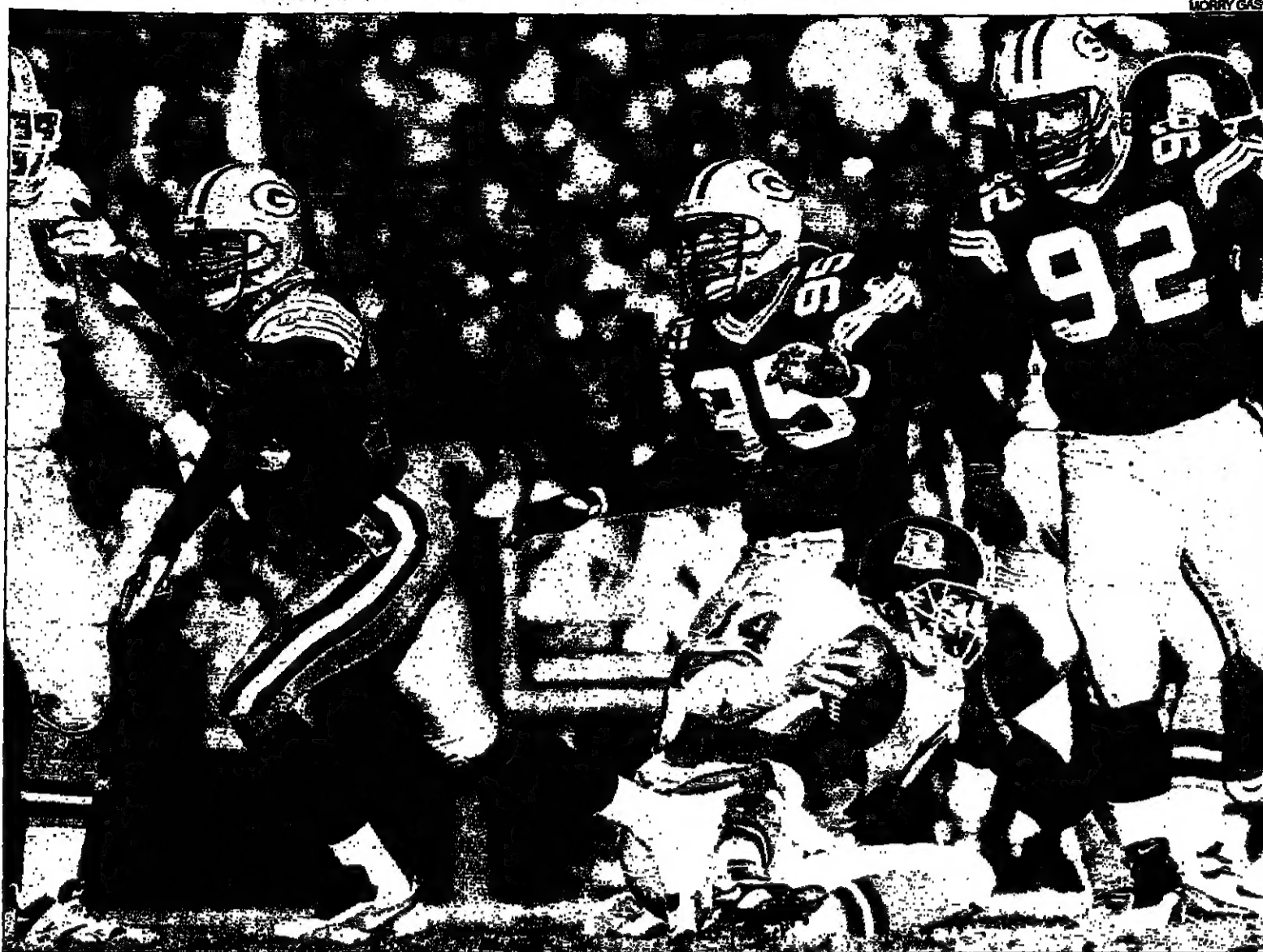
Carolina Panthers became the first team to secure a play-off place in their second year when they beat the 49ers in San Francisco 30-24 in the National Football Conference West. The 49ers reached the play-offs after Washington Redskins lost at Tampa Bay.

with huge travelling rugs draped around their shoulders, woollen hats pulled down over their eyebrows and ears, great plumes of their breath mingling in the air. They looked as though they were arriving at base camp for a mountain ascent.

A few of the footballers wore pieces of cheese on their head, the symbol of their team, but others were wearing Balaclavas with slits cut for the eyes, nose and mouth. All had heavy boots and padded gloves: welcome to garroday at Lambeau Field, home of the Green Bay Packers, one of the coldest places on earth to watch professional sport.

This is the stadium, after all, that staged the coldest match in the history of the National Football League 29 years ago. The beer froze in its barrels at the stadium stalls on that New Year's Eve in 1967 and many of the home team players had to be brought from their homes because their cars had seized up. They called that game, between the Packers and Dallas Cowboys, the Ice Bowl.

On Sunday, I suppose it was balmy by comparison. Adam, a barman from Lake Geneva, a few hours to the south, who was sitting in the next seat, laughed at me, too, when I told him my face was beginning to sting in the wind that was



Lambeau Field was an unfriendly environment for another visiting team, Denver Broncos, as Green Bay maintained their fine home run

blowing in off Lake Michigan. "It's nice out, today," he said. Well, I suppose the wind-chill factor was only -22C (-5F), even if it was the coldest temperature they have had here on the day of a game for nearly three years. That wind, which howled around the outdoor concourses beneath the stands like an angry spirit, turned 3½ hours of watching the Packers crush Denver Broncos 41-6 into a feat of endurance.

I stuck it out but, by the end, my hands were numb, even inside my gloves and the wind was blowing through my layers. When I made it back to the glassed-in comfort of the press room, where they had been serving Christmas cookies to the media, my face felt as though it was on fire, my nose was streaming and I was struggling to catch my breath, almost as though I was at altitude. I felt invigorated, too, though, like a survivor.

Most of the supporters laugh in the face of it. They eat their bowls of hot chili and sip their cups of soup, but they do drink cans and cans of cold beer and start their parties and barbecues in the giant parking lot several hours before the midday kick-off. When a vendor came up to our perch at half-time on Sunday selling cups of hot chocolate, Adam was disappointed it was not beer. "Burner," he said. The 60,000 people who crammed into Lambeau Field, a huge green and gold stadium on the south-west edge of this small town about 30 miles south of the border with Canada, are about as far away from armchair supporters as it is possible to be. Every game, especially at this time of year, is a battle against nature. It is a world away from the

rarefied atmospheres of most American football stadiums, places such as the Georgia Dome in Atlanta, with its carpeted floor and smooth escalators, or Pro Player Park in Miami, bathed in its perpetual warmth. This is tough, blue-collar spectating, spitting in aisles that are already caked in grit, awash with melted ice. It is the way it used to be before big business got hold of the game.

It is almost as if the weather is their weapon, here, too. It is their identity, the tie that binds. The cold is their battle standard, a variation on the theme of suffering for your team that is such a crucial part of the psyche of any sports fan, the thing that brings with it a visceral sense of community.

They know, too, that the chill wind brings opponents no good. They know that they fear their trips to the "frozenundra", that many of them, especially teams from warmer climes, such as Miami Dolphins and San Francisco 49ers, are beaten before they even kick off.

It has been that way for two seasons now. For 14 games the

Packers have been invincible in Green Bay and with a record this year of 11 wins and three losses, it is looking more and more likely that they will clinch home-field advantage for the play-offs. Anyone from the National Football Conference who wants to get to the Super Bowl will have to beat the Packers here first.

On Sunday, the Broncos, who are used to a bit of snow themselves, looked thoroughly miserable huddled on their sideline in a small area bounded by two hot air blowers. Most of them sat on heated high-backed white benches, venturing gingerly on to the pitch before rushing back to them like a cold child trying to warm his hands by the fire. Even the cheerleaders were well wrapped up.

"It is tough for visiting teams because of the noise the fans make here," Brett Favre, the Packers quarterback, said after the game. "But the main thing is the weather. I woke up this morning and the wind was blowing, the snow was falling and I thought 'this is going to be a tough day'. If I'm thinking like that and I'm used to it, imagine how the team we're playing must feel."

NFL RESULTS											
American Conference						National Conference					
Eastern division						Eastern division					
	W	L	T	P	A		W	L	T	P	A
* New England	10	4	0	389	279	Dallas	9	5	0	264	207
Buffalo	8	6	0	285	241	Philadelphia	8	6	0	313	302
Baltimore	8	6	0	289	264	Washington	8	6	0	307	276
Indianapolis	8	6	0	292	263	Akron	8	6	0	254	242
Miami	8	6	0	292	263	NY Giants	8	6	0	217	257
NY Jets	13	0	0	231	402						
Central division						Central division					
	W	L	T	P	A		W	L	T	P	A
* Pittsburgh	10	4	0	315	214	1 Green Bay	11	3	0	387	187
Houston	7	7	0	328	277	Minnesota	8	6	0	287	267
Philadelphia	7	7	0	296	306	Chicago	8	6	0	237	257
San Diego	8	6	0	301	322	Detroit	8	6	0	286	313
Seattle	4	10	0	334	350	Tampa Bay	8	6	0	177	253
Western division						Western division					
	W	L	T	P	A		W	L	T	P	A
* Denver	12	2	0	357	240	* Carolina	10	4	0	322	188
Philadelphia	9	4	0	350	230	* San Francisco	10	4	0	340	228
San Diego	7	7	0	290	339	St Louis	4	10	0	256	269
Seattle	7	7	0	290	339	San Francisco	4	10	0	256	269
Seattle	6	8	0	276	335	New Orleans	2	12	0	199	322

FOOTBALL: CENTRAL DEFENDER LIKELY TO MAKE TOTTENHAM DEBUT AT ELLAND ROAD

Scales prepares for storm

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

JOHN SCALES is prepared for a hostile reception at Elland Road on Saturday. The 30-year-old central defender will have his first training session with Tottenham Hotspur today and will make his debut against Leeds United, the club he decided not to join at the last minute, if he recovers from a groin injury.

Scales signed a 3½-year deal at White Hart Lane yesterday after his £2.6 million move from Liverpool had been agreed. Bill Fotherby, the Leeds chairman, was left furious and embarrassed after lining up a news conference at which he had hoped to unveil his new signing.

Scales is only too aware of the text of character that lies immediately ahead in his native Yorkshire. "It could be a tricky weekend but I am prepared for that," Scales, who was born in Harrogate,

said. "It was a very difficult situation. I had my medical at Leeds and they wanted to know. But I always said I would make my decision over the weekend. Coming home on the train last night I made my mind up to join Tottenham and I felt happy with that."

"I am looking forward to training with Tottenham. I have been out for a few weeks because of the injury, so I am looking for a good week's work."

Scales's agent, Eric Hall, said he believed the former Wimbledon player wanted to move back down south. "I think, if I'm totally honest... he wanted to move back to London. Liverpool didn't want him so he had to make the decision. I believe he made this decision because the club was in London."

George Graham, the Leeds manager, was philosophical about Scales's move. "The

boy has made his choice and that is the end of the matter," Graham said. "We only want players who want to play for the club."

Yesterday Graham did manage to complete his first signing for Leeds, bringing Gunnar Halle from Oldham Athletic for £400,000. Halle, 31, was on the point of signing for Leeds in September, but Howard Wilkinson lost his job as manager and the deal fell through.

But Graham revived the club's interest and signed the player on a 2½-year contract. "He'll be a very useful addition to our squad," Graham said. Halle, capped 52 times by Norway, moved to Boundary Park from Lillestrøm in 1990. He can play in either full-back position or in midfield. "It is a bonus to have someone who can play in different positions," Graham added.

Emerson flies back to chilly reception

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

THE meteorological deficiencies of the North East, which have exerted a chilling influence on the saga of Emerson's footballing tenure at Middlesbrough, gave the plot another twist yesterday. The Brazilian, who has made a series of trips home to be with his wife because she could not cope with the English winter, was due to fly into Teesside yesterday, only to discover that it was fog-bound. The plane was diverted to Newcastle instead.

When he eventually finds his way back to the Riverside Stadium, he will find Middlesbrough officials keen to draw a veil over his three unimpressive appearances from a £100,000 fine imposed last week — and anxious to restore some sort of normal service. Wales, in need of a boost to

their World Cup campaign after a 7-1 defeat against Holland in their last qualifying match, were relieved to hear yesterday that Rustu Recber, the first-choice Turkish goalkeeper, will miss their group seven match in Cardiff on Saturday because he has to undergo surgery to cure his injured back.

Injuries have also taken their toll of Northern Ireland, whose misfortune was typified by the case of Jim Magilton, the Southampton midfielder, player, who was forced to cry-off only hours after being summoned to the squad in the wake of the withdrawals of Aston Rogan, Danny Griffin and Nigel Worthington. Mark Graham, the uncapped Queens Park Rangers defender, has been drafted in.

ICE HOCKEY

Cup victory adds bite to Panthers

By NORMAN DE MESQUITA

NOTTINGHAM Panthers celebrated their Benson and Hedges Cup success in the best possible way, by winning a Superleague game for the first time in a month.

Basingstoke Bison were on the receiving end of the 6-1 defeat, as first-period goals by Jeff Hoad and Derek Laxdal, the hero on Saturday, set the Panthers on course. A lone marker from Blake Knox midway through the game did nothing to deter the Panthers.

The Bison were not helped by their inability to stay out of the penalty box and four of the Nottingham goals came on the powerplay.

Cardiff Devils also emerged from a slump, beating Sheffield Steelers 4-3 for their first win in five games. It was a close-run affair. The lead changed hands three times and, even when Doug McCarthy made it 4-2 with six minutes remaining, the game was far from over, as a goal by Tom Plummer a minute later set up a grandstand finish. The Steelers could not quite salvage a point.

The improved Bracknell Bees were able to do just that, however, earning a 6-6 draw with Ayr Scottish Eagles, thanks to a goal by Wade Buxis just over two minutes from the final buzzer.

The Eagles appeared to be having difficulty in putting the Cup disappointment behind them, but they rallied from a 5-3 deficit midway through the second period to score four goals in little more than 14 minutes and lead 6-5 with eight minutes remaining. Then Buxis struck.

SPORT IN BRIEF

Krajicek must rest after knee surgery

RICHARD KRAJICEK, the Wimbledon tennis champion, will be out of the game for up to ten weeks after undergoing knee surgery yesterday. Krajicek, who has suffered from knee trouble for some time, had a piece of cartilage removed from his right knee during an operation at a hospital in Rotterdam. The Dutchman will miss the Australian Open in Melbourne next month.

The £280,000 Tim Henman gained for reaching the semi-finals of the Grand Slam Cup last week has lifted him into the top 20 earners on the ATP Tour this season. The British No 1's performance in Munich almost doubled his earnings for the year, to more than £568,000, and left him at sixteenth on the list, ten places higher than his world ranking. Boris Becker, who ended Henman's Grand Slam Cup campaign and then won around £1 million for beating Goran Ivanisevic in the final, heads the list with almost £5 million to his credit.

New downhill date

SKIING: The men's World Cup downhill that was cancelled at Whistler, British Columbia, on Saturday because of too much snow, was yesterday rescheduled for December 20 in Val Gardena, Italy, by the International Ski Federation. The race will be the first of back-to-back downhill races at the Italian resort, joining the race that had already been planned for December 21.

Bad weather plagued the resort on the west coast of Canada all last week, wiping out training and forcing the cancellation of both the first men's downhill of the season and the super giant slalom the following day. A new date and site for the super giant slalom has yet to be decided by the federation.

Monarchs on move

AMERICAN FOOTBALL: The London Monarchs are set to move to another stadium for the 1997 season of the World League of American Football (Richard Wetherall writes). After two years at White Hart Lane, the home of Tottenham Hotspur, they are planning to move to Chelsea's Stamford Bridge. It will be the third "home" for the side in their short history — in 1991 and 1992 they played at Wembley. Their contract with Tottenham has expired and by heading to the west of the capital, the Monarchs hope that the greater accessibility will increase attendances.

Holland leave it late

HOCKEY: A goal by Remco van Wijk three minutes before the final whistle gave Holland, the Olympic gold medal winners, a 2-1 victory over Germany in the Champions Trophy in Madras yesterday. The Germans, defending champions in the elite six-nation event, appeared set to share the points after a spectacular goal by Bjorn Michel in the sixtieth minute. Michel executed a reverse flick from the top of the circle that easily beat Ronald Jansen, the Holland goalkeeper, but Germany's joy lasted only seven minutes before Van Wijk hit the winning goal.

Enstone finally beaten

RUGBY FIVES: Wayne Enstone, 23 times the national singles champion, has finally lost his title, to Neil Roberts. In a magnificent three-game final on his home courts in Manchester, Enstone, 44, was outplayed in the first game but rallied in typical fashion to win the second and go 4-0 up in the third before his younger opponent's strength eventually told. Roberts, of Yorkshire, who has been runner-up to Enstone four times in recent years and has already won many regional titles, is a worthy successor to the sport's greatest champion.

Scotland make it three

CURLING: Scotland's men won their third consecutive European championship in Copenhagen on Sunday. The quartet of Hammy McMillan, Norman Brown, Mike Hay and Brian Binnie beat Sweden 10-3 in typically flamboyant style. The women's title went to Switzerland for the first time in 11 years when Mirjam Ott's inexperienced squad beat Sweden 7-4. The Scotland women's team lost their third place play-off to Germany 6-4. England lost their world championship placing when they were beaten 9-4 by Finland and thus finished eighth overall.

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SAILING

Smith bids for all-British boat

By EDWARD GORMAN, SAILING CORRESPONDENT

A COMPLEX deal that would allow Lawrie Smith to leave EF Education, the Swedish Whitbread round-the-world syndicate, and sail instead under a British flag in a boat sponsored by Silk Cut, was still being worked on yesterday after its formal announcement was cancelled at the last minute.

The deal, which may involve Paul Cayard, the American skipper, taking Smith's place with EF, has been in planning for months. If it goes ahead, Smith will be free to choose an all-British crew for what he hopes will be his best shot at winning the race.

A spokeswoman for Smith said yesterday that the deal would still be going ahead but

claimed that it had not been possible to announce the move as planned because of a "technical-legal hitch" that had to be overcome. One issue that was thought to have been delaying the conclusion was deciding on a location and builder suitable for the construction of a new Whitbread 60.

Smith has already chosen several British crew for his EF boat, who include Adrian Stead and Neal MacDonald. It is thought, though, that they would move with him to the Silk Cut boat if the agreement is finalised. The size of the Silk Cut commitment was not confirmed, but it is thought to be substantial enough to allow Smith a credible chance of winning.



Best keep your distance from the fearless

Fearless people are terrifying. Take Douglas Bader, subject of last night's *Secret Lives* (Channel 4) — he was fearless: everybody said so. Glenn, unlikely heroine of *King Girl* (BBC2) — she was fearless, too. It's the basic human instinct of fear that keeps us civilised, makes us learn things at school, stops us from crashing expensive planes all over the place. As a society, we admire fearless people, but as these two offerings last night made clear, it is dangerous to make one your friend. Along with fear — in the same package of the brain — come empathy and imagination. This explains why it's often useless to make violent offenders confront their crimes. Ask them "How would you like it?" and, being fearless, they have no mental hang of emotions to deal with such a suggestion.

Secret Lives chose a good subject in Douglas Bader. For one thing, his large heroic reputation

had long since detached from any real memory of the man; for another, his old Air Force pals are still around to set matters straight. There was no suspicion of unfairness in the film, in fact, because the testimonies were by violent and aggressive show-off who exaggerated his exploits. "Five for a cent" he would announce arrogantly, returning from a dog-fight. No, the difference of opinion in Simon Berthon's film concerned simply whether a man with such an obnoxious character can be forgiven and loved for the other things he achieves.

It was no surprise, of course, to learn that the movie *Reach for the Sky* was not gospel truth — though, apparently its star, Kenneth More, assumed it was. In the 1950s, turning up to address former prisoners of war, the actor announced he would speak on Douglas Bader. Sucked teeth and

shaken heads were the reply. "I wouldn't do that. They all hate him." At which point in *Secret Lives*, Bader's fellow PoWs told us what a liability he was. His famous habit of bawling and insulting the Germans was remembered not as morale-boosting, but as unnecessary and idiotic; his fine desire to escape at all costs was ultimately selfish and endangered others. When Bader was finally hauled off to Colditz, the other prisoners applauded. Fearless people, as I mentioned earlier, can be hell to have around.

The rather contrived *Wicked Women* "season" on BBC2 followed up last week's lurid and star-spangled *Brazen Hussies* with *King Girl* — a film dissimilar in every respect. *King Girl* was a tense, lean drama (dominant colour: charcoal grey) ostensibly addressing the topical subject of violent girl-gangs, but in the



Lynne Truss

process going deep into the scary abyss of adolescent loneliness. For the foul, 14-year-old Glenn, with ugly short hair and boys' clothes, was dangerously frustrated, and her jangling hormones weren't helping. In a sparsely written script by Phylloma McDonagh, Glenn was powerfully effective when she didn't speak when she just swaggered on Bradford garage roofs, or stared or

spat. She was the kind of adolescent girl who can set fire to curtains simply by the power of negativity, and her bullying of the *Inoffensive* Gail arose from the most negative feeling of all jealousy — because Gail had a dead Daddy, whom she could visit in the cemetery. Glenn's father, by contrast, had given her a boy's name and scattered, while Mam was now drunkenly drunk and the bedroom door left open.

I doubt *King Girl* will be shown in schools to help the bullying problem, partly because its depiction of teachers was so thoroughly unflattering. But Glenn's gender confusion and uncontrollable sexual aggression were so well presented that personally, I felt I'd learnt something. Both Glenn and Gail carried heavy responsibility — Glenn for her small sister, Gail for her grieving mother — giving them additional reasons to say

"Nothing" when asked "What's wrong?" The director, Sam Miller, got excellent performances from Louise Atkins (Glenn) and Cathy Purcell (Gail). The idea that Glenn's real name is something girly like Louise is quite impossible to take in, actually.

Not a load of laughs, last night, then: just a lot of fearless people getting away with it. The four-part *Moll Flanders* (ITV) got away with it, too, in the end, through sheer nerve. Just as Moll herself grew hardened to her life of shame, so the series grinded its teeth, narrowed its eyes, cinched its waist, and just toughed it out to the bitter end — the ridicule of the critical press notwithstanding.

I seem to be the only person who didn't care too much about the consistent breezy anachronistic talk in Andrew Davies's script. True, Moll's old lover said to her

last night "We left it a little late to look each other up, Moll!" — but the point was, it was all like that, you were grateful for the absence of odd-bodkins, and felt released from your usual costume-drama duty of listening for historical mistakes and yelling "Nobody in Trollope says 'horridous' while running for the Shorter Oxford." We critics do (rightly) worry about such things, but we must always remember, too, that our ardent sometimes leads us into trouble. When the Emma Thompson *Sense and Sensibility* was released, a film critic protested at the line "I'll eat my own vomit." Obviously, such a sentiment expressed at a Jane Austen picnic came as a terrible affront to its well-tuned ear. But alas, dear reader, the line was "I'll eat my own vomit" and the critic, if he had any shame, went to his reference section and handed himself.

BBC1

- 6.00am BUSINESS BREAKFAST (33816)
- 7.00am BBC BREAKFAST NEWS (34229)
- 9.00am BREAKFAST NEWS EXTRA (1) (195742)
- 9.30am STYLE CHANGE (403381)
- 9.45am KILROY (866010)
- 10.30am CANT COOK, WONT COOK (59854)
- 11.00am NEWS (1), regional news and weather (336294)
- 11.05am THE REALLY USEFUL SHOW CONSUMER ADVICE (5367107) 11.45am Snail's People (226876)
- 12.00am NEWS (1), regional news and weather (8977251) 12.05pm The Flying Doctors (1) (330855) 12.30pm Fancy That! Christmas costumes (3077662)
- 1.00am NEWS (1) and weather (37318) 1.30am Regional News and weather (8472738)
- 1.40am NEIGHBOURS (1) (2971294) 2.00am Call My Bluff, Word game (9948) 2.30pm Inappropriate The quiz on wheels (768)
- 3.00am NEWS (1) and weather (710552) 3.05am Westminster With Nick Ross (1) (243042)
- 4.00am REMOVAL THE REMINDER (2102687) 4.10am Oscar's Orchestra (1) (1978156) 4.35am It's Never Work (1) (774229) 5.00am Newsround (3315590) 5.10am The Biz (8551497)
- 5.35am NEIGHBOURS (1) (294484)
- 6.00am NEWS (1) and weather (497)
- 6.30am REGIONAL NEWS MAGAZINES (749)
- 7.00am HOLIDAY SPECIAL: FASTEN YOUR SEATBELT Jill Dando and Kevin Woodard experience some of the everyday jobs in the travel industry (1) (5107)
- 7.30am EASTENDERS Grant and Tiffany do not see eye to eye. Peggy has some devastating news for George (1) (861)
- 8.00am 999 LIFESAVERS Re-enactments of real-life deaths of celebrities. Plus, a look at car safety for children (1) (7853)
- 8.30am A QUESTION OF SPORT Ally McCollet and John Parrott captain two teams of sporting celebrities (1) (2590)
- 9.00am NEWS (1), regional news and weather (2890)
- 9.30am ONE FOOT IN THE GRAVE Victor is called up for jury service. Starring Richard Wilson and Amanda Crooks (1) (35861) WALKERS: Just Across the Water (1) (753857)
- 10.00am CRIMEWATCH UK with Nick Ross and Jill Dando (1) (753857)
- 10.50am FILM: Tremors (1990) starring Kevin Bacon and Fred Ward. A spoof of 1950s films featuring horror creatures. Directed by Ron Underwood (1) Continued at 11.50am (825555) WALKERS: One Foot in the Grave (1) (35861) WALKERS: Just Across the Water (1) (753857) Tremors continued 11.00am: Roommate — the Prize Fighter 2.30am News
- 11.40am CRIMEWATCH UK - UPDATE (1) (784587)
- 11.50am FILM: Tremors continued (578403)
- 12.30am FILM: Roommate — the Prize Fighter (1988) starring Perry King and Courtney Cox. The true story of Roommate Pulitzer's marriage. Directed by Richard Collier (40189)
- 2.00am WEATHER (802689)

BBC2

- 6.00am OPEN UNIVERSITY: Women, Children and Work (3157788) 6.30am Working Mothers (805522) 7.15am See Hear News (2074010) 7.30am Yakyak (5902294) 7.50am Blue Peter (5908010) 8.15am Johnson and Friends (5658487) 8.30am Spot (5948749) 8.35am The Backlog (6112216) 9.00am The Complete Guide to the 20th Century (817318) 9.10am The Lake that Exploded (5440010) 10.00am Playdays (2573881) 10.25am The Fugitive (8244838) 11.15am The Phil Spector Show (1874364) 11.40am Flash Gordon's Trip to Mars (8182261) 12.00am See Hear News (5902294) 12.30am Working Lunch (57038) 1.00am Spot (8224078) 1.05am Johnson and Friends (59715740) 1.15am Operation Survival (831855) 1.45am Rugby Union: The Varsity match (7425431) 3.40am Even More of Glenn Christy's Entertaining Moments (1551395) 3.55am News (1) 4.00am Today's the Day (590) 4.30am Ready, Steady, Cook (774) 5.00am The Oprah Winfrey Show (1) (488497) 5.40am A Week to Remember (172403) 5.50am Lineup (803381) 6.00am Fresh Prince of Bel Air (1) (594035) 6.25am HEARTBREAK HIGH (1) (181254) 7.30am TEX AVERY (82781) 7.30am HUMAN RIGHTS, HUMAN WRONGS Highlighting prison conditions around the world (20555)
- 7.30am THE VERDICT David Rose travels around the country meeting High Court and circuit judges to discover how they arrive at their decisions (1) (403)
- 8.00am UNIVERSITY CHALLENGE (1) Newnham College, Cambridge v the London School of Economics (1) (5497)
- 8.30am FOOD AND DRINK: Jill Golden and Oz Clarke visit port producers in the Douro Valley in Portugal (1) (4872)
- 9.00am MURDER MOST HORROR The Grim Reaper faces an existence of infinite agony. A new episode (1) (8132)
- 9.30am TOP GEAR Jeremy Clarkson test-drives Honda's Prelude coupé (1) (33403)
- 10.00am NEVER MIND THE BUZZCOCKS Pop quiz hosted by Mark Lerner (1) (20497)
- 10.30am NEWSNIGHT (1) (38213)
- 11.15am A ROOM WITH TWO VIEWS The journalist Jon Wilde and John Beyer, the secretary of the National Viewers' and Listeners' Association argue about the effects of bad language (1) (414316)
- 11.45am HUMAN RIGHTS, HUMAN WRONGS (1) (414316)
- 12.00am THE MIDNIGHT HOUR (17072)
- 12.30am THE LEARNING ZONE: O-U — Women's Studies (89804) 1.00am Four Towns and a Circus (34324) 1.30am Learning About Leadership 2.00am Living Faith/Faith to Faith (8053) 4.00am Teaching and Learning With It (89655) 4.30am United in the Classroom (55817) 5.00am Inside Europe 5.30am Film Education

CHOICE

- Fasten Your Seatbelt BBC1, 7.00pm It is not quite Angela Ripston high-kicking with Marmite and Wise but Jill Dando as an air hostess is a further example of a newsreader being thrust into an unfamiliar role. The air hostess idea is a spin-off from another of Dando's jobs, as presenter of the *Crimestory* UK. It may be only a matter of time before we see her as a copper. Meanwhile, the Boeing 767 flight from London to Orlando sees the trimly-uniformed Dando checking the too rules, serving the drinks and meals and getting into an almighty tangle over the duty-free. But she is such a lovely giggler when things go wrong that everybody forgives her. Not to be outdone, Kevin Woodard, Dando's colleague on *Holiday*, becomes an entertainment officer on a cruise liner.
- Ride On Channel 4, 8.00pm Muriel Gray and the team sign off the present series by taking part in, well for it, a lawnmower race. It is supposed to be a cheap alternative to motor racing, but as the machine has no suspension and the course is a rough and bumpy field, the pleasures of the sport are a little hard to understand. The race goes on for a punishing 12 hours and for the *Ride On* team almost everything that can go wrong does. But trust Gray to find a cherry bon mot or two. Otherwise, as tends to happen, the show is dominated by the car. A piece about young men who buy ordinary Vauxhalls. Novas, sou them up with turbocharged engines and these Porsche drivers holds few surprises. Entering less familiar territory is a report from Dover on how customs officers know which cars to search for illicit drugs and guns.
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- A Room With Two Views: Bad Language BBC2, 11.15pm Far from debating the language, cussing and blinding actually enriches it, according to Jon Wilde, a journalist from *Loaded* magazine. So he is unlikely to find common ground with John Beyer, who has succeeded Mary Whitehouse as secretary of the National Viewers' and Listeners' Association. And nor does he, though the debate is conducted with courtesy on both sides and, perhaps surprisingly given the subject, with the minimum use of any words that could cause offence. As witnesses for the defence Wilde has chosen Shakespeare, Dennis Potter and James Kelman. Beyer retorts that the use of bad language is insulting and indicative of a poor vocabulary and he castigates television and the cinema for promoting it. Peter Waymark

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For more comprehensive listings of satellite and cable channels, see the Directory, published on Saturday

SKY 1

- 7.00am Love Connection (477039) 7.30am Press Your Luck (455048) 7.40am Jeopardy! (820228) 8.10am Home (557720) 8.30am Another World (557720) 8.50am The Simpsons (747045) 10.00am Real TV (820228) 11.10am Sally Jessy Raphael (820228) 12.00am Genie (747045) 1.00am to 1.55am 9.00am Jerry Jones (87107) 4.00am The Oprah Winfrey Show (820228) 4.30am The New Generation (820228) 4.55am The New Generation of Superman (820228) 5.00am L.A.P.D. (820228) 5.25am Real TV (820228) 1.00am to 1.55am
- 7.00am Star Trek: Deep Space Nine (128058) 8.00am Sliders (145174) 9.00am Remedy (144802) 10.00am New York Undercover (128058) 11.00am Star Trek: Voyager (128058) 12.00am Star Trek: Voyager (128058) 1.00am Star Trek: Voyager (128058) 1.55am Star Trek: Voyager (128058)
- 7.00am Star Trek: Voyager (128058) 7.30am Star Trek: Voyager (128058) 8.00am Star Trek: Voyager (128058) 8.30am Star Trek: Voyager (128058) 9.00am Star Trek: Voyager (128058) 9.30am Star Trek: Voyager (128058) 10.00am Star Trek: Voyager (128058) 10.30am Star Trek: Voyager (128058) 11.00am Star Trek: Voyager (128058) 11.30am Star Trek: Voyager (128058) 12.00am Star Trek: Voyager (128058) 1.00am Star Trek: Voyager (128058) 1.30am Star Trek: Voyager (128058) 1.55am Star Trek: Voyager (128058)

SKY NEWS

Worldwide news coverage, with bulletins on the hour, 24 hours a day, seven days a week

SKY MOVIES

- 6.00am Back Home (1980) (3319) 6.30am Flight of the Doves (1977) (32107) 10.00am The Soldier (1985) (7825) 12.00am Dreamer (1978) (8828) 2.00am Young Man of Heat (1983) (34126) 4.00am Family Reunion (1985) (8126) 4.30am A Fall at Midnight (1984) (8126) 5.00am The Righter (1984) (8126) 5.30am The Spectator (1984) (8126) 6.00am The Spectator (1984) (8126) 6.30am The Spectator (1984) (8126) 7.00am The Spectator (1984) (8126) 7.30am The Spectator (1984) (8126) 8.00am The Spectator (1984) (8126) 8.30am The Spectator (1984) (8126) 9.00am The Spectator (1984) (8126) 9.30am The Spectator (1984) (8126) 10.00am The Spectator (1984) (8126) 10.30am The Spectator (1984) (8126) 11.00am The Spectator (1984) (8126) 11.30am The Spectator (1984) (8126) 12.00am The Spectator (1984) (8126) 1.00am The Spectator (1984) (8126) 1.30am The Spectator (1984) (8126) 1.55am The Spectator (1984) (8126)
- 7.00am Sports Centre (17149) 7.30am Sports Centre (17149) 8.00am Sports Centre (17149) 8.30am Sports Centre (17149) 9.00am Sports Centre (17149) 9.30am Sports Centre (17149) 10.00am Sports Centre (17149) 10.30am Sports Centre (17149) 11.00am Sports Centre (17149) 11.30am Sports Centre (17149) 12.00am Sports Centre (17149) 1.00am Sports Centre (17149) 1.30am Sports Centre (17149) 1.55am Sports Centre (17149)
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SKY MOVIES GOLD

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RACING 43

Southwell under scrutiny after Davis inquest

SPORT

AMERICAN FOOTBALL 45

Green Bay Packers breathe fire in the big freeze



TUESDAY DECEMBER 10 1996

England give Guscott a wide berth

By DAVID HANDS
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

JACK ROWELL, the England rugby union coach, like Margaret Thatcher in her palmist days, is not for turning. Others may continue the debate over the side's most effective midfield combination, but only injuries have forced Rowell into two changes for the international against Argentina at Twickenham on Saturday.

Tim Stimpson, the Newcastle full back, was concussed playing for the Barbarians against Australia on Saturday and delayed concussion was also diagnosed for Adebayo Adebayo after Bath's triumphant rally against Harlequins in the league. Adebayo was involved in the collision that left Jim Staples, the Harlequins and Ireland full back, with a broken jaw and may count himself lucky not to be as badly hurt as the Irishman.

Though he did not say so outright, the distinct impression left as the England squad gathered at Marlow last night was that Rowell intended to do what he always said he would do and allow the XV named against Italy last month to go through all the pre-Christmas internationals. Now, however, he has given Nick Beal a first cap instead of Stimpson and in place of Adebayo on the left wing, Jeremy Guscott makes a surprise return to international rugby.

Not that Guscott's return is a surprise in form, but all his 45 caps have been won at centre and Rowell's critics will say that he has now taken the softer option rather than deciding which of three outstanding centres — Guscott, Will Carling and his captain, Phil de Glanville — he must do without. Yet there are plenty of recent precedents for moving a good footballer to the wing, where Damian Hopley and, more notably, Simon Halliday (Guscott's mentor at Bath) have appeared with success.

ENGLAND (vs Argentina, Saturday): N D Beal (Northampton), J M Sleggholme (Bath), W D C Carling (Gloucester), P R de Glanville (Bath, captain), J C Guscott (Bath), M J Call (Bath), A C T Gommans (Worcester), G C Rowntree (Leicester), M P Regan (Gloucester), J Leonard (Gloucester), T A K Rodder (Northampton/Army), M O Johnson (Leicester), S D Shaw (Bristol), L B N Dallaglio (Wasps), C M A Sherry (Wasps). Replacements: P P Bracken (Saracens), A D King (Wasps), J E B Callard (Bath), R J K Hardwick (Coventry), P B T Goring (Gloucester), B B Clarke (Richmond).

"We think Jerry deserves a place," Rowell said. "His attitude since he was dropped has been first class, as has his contribution to the squad. We did consider him on the left wing now and then last year. Will Carling has played extremely well. Jerry is pressing very hard and we will bite the bullet before the five nations."

On the left wing last season, of course, was Rory Underwood, who has faded from the scene with remarkable rapidity given that he is England's record caps-holder and try-scorer. His younger brother, Tony, was called into the squad only last week and would have seemed a natural replacement for Adebayo, but Rowell made the point that the England squad consisted of some 28 players and that Underwood's return was more



Guscott: on the wing

by way of confirmation that he was back in contention after more than a year's absence.

Guscott has always said he would play anywhere for England, yet it may prove frustrating to see his talents lying fallow on the wing if the midfield does not prove more creative than against Italy and the New Zealand Barbarians. On the other hand, the elevation of Beal is an exciting prospect and due reward for a talented player whose very versatility has been his worst enemy.

Since he announced his arrival by scoring two tries against Rory Underwood in a divisional match four years ago, Beal has tried hard to serve many masters, some of whom saw him as a stand-off half, others a centre or wing and yet more as a full back. Ian McGeechan, his coach at Northampton, sees Beal, 26, as a back-three player, the roles of the wings and full back overlapping. "The jobs should be interchangeable and the way we are playing suits Nick," McGeechan said. "His self-confidence has returned and he comes on to the ball at such pace. He's faster and stronger this season than he has ever been."

There is little doubt that Beal, 6ft 2in and 14st, and Guscott will add speed and flair to England should the team choose to employ it. "In Beal we are looking for an all-round player who is also a strike runner," Rowell said. He has also acquired a player who, though not first choice for his club, can kick goals, though the addition to the replacements of Jonathan Callard is not without significance, in an era of tactical substitutions.

The coach also shrugged off any temptation to change the back row, even though Wasps choose now to play Lawrence Dallaglio as much on the blind-side flank as on the open side. The prospect of Ben Clarke champing at the bit among the replacements will be all the motivation that Dallaglio, Chris Sheasby and Tim Rodber need to sustain their roles against Argentina.

Amateur values, page 46
Cap for McIntosh, page 46

Oxford test the water in trial of strength



The victorious eight, above, feel the strain during the Oxford Boat Race trial yesterday while Tim Foster, the Olympic coxswain, takes in the defeat

FA docks Brighton two points

By JOHN GOODBODY

BRIGHTON and Hove Albion's hopes of survival were dealt another blow yesterday when the club was fined two points for crowd trouble during the game against Lincoln City.

The Football Association's decision leaves the club, already without a manager and soon to be without a ground, 11 points adrift at the bottom of the Nationwide League. The FA, trying hard to broker a solution to the club's off-field problems, was unable to ignore two pitch invasions by protesting fans during the third division match against Lincoln City at the Goldstone Ground on October 1.

The club already had a suspended sentence of a three-point deduction and a one-match ground closure hanging over it after disturbances last April. However, despite the fact that the crowd control

commission found the club guilty of failing to control its spectators, the FA showed clemency by deciding not to activate the suspended sentence in full. Instead, it deducted two league points and ordered Brighton to pay the costs of the hearing. The club has 14 days to appeal.

The Premier League said yesterday that it is to begin searching immediately for a new chief executive, although Rick Parry will only take up his new job with Liverpool next summer. A four-man panel has been appointed to find a replacement for Parry, who has overseen the success of the League and transformed its financing since it was set up in 1992.

The appointments committee will include Alan Sugar, of Tottenham Hotspur, Terry Brown, of West Ham United, Freddie Fletcher, of Newcastle United, Phil Carter, of Everton, and one other club

chairman, who has yet to be announced.

The League expects to make the appointment before or during the close season, when Parry will move to Liverpool, a club that he has supported since boyhood, to become chief executive.

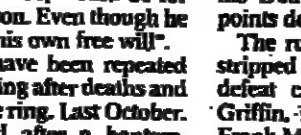
Parry said yesterday: "I am delighted it is going to be a seamless transition. I have been involved in the Premier League from the start and want to see it going from strength to strength."

Parry, 42, who was recently given a pay rise to £200,000 a year after negotiating the new £800 million deal with BSkyB, announced his decision last week but will work six months' notice.

Details of his last significant deal on behalf of the League were announced yesterday. Bass, the brewers of Carling lager, has increased its sponsorship to £36 million over four years, replacing the original £12 million deal.

Celtic's next two Bells Scottish League fixtures, at home to Kilmarnock tomorrow and away to Raith Rovers on Saturday, have been called off because Pierre van Hooijdonk and Jorge Cadete will be on international duty.

Premier deal, page 25
Seals signs, page 45



Parry: set up £36m deal

Boxing union seeks family values

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

THE Italian boxer's union has asked Carla de Chiara, whose son, Fabrizio, died after a bout last month, to become their honorary president. The 25-year-old boxer died from head injuries after being knocked down by Vincenzo Imparato in a national middleweight title bout at Carrara. His mother has since campaigned against a ban on boxing, saying that her son's death was an accident that was part of the sport.

Sandro Lopopolo, president of the union, said: "We want to offer Fabrizio de Chiara's mother an honorary post, and we hope that she accepts. She could become our ambassador. She is an exceptional woman who understands more about boxing than some of the so-called experts. Her words, after the drama that happened to her son, are a lesson to us all. I hope she agrees to

become our honorary president, it would be a significant move, particularly for young people."

The day after De Chiara died, his mother said she would not want to ban boxing "because to do so, would be for me to go against my son. Even though he is dead, he boxed of his own free will."

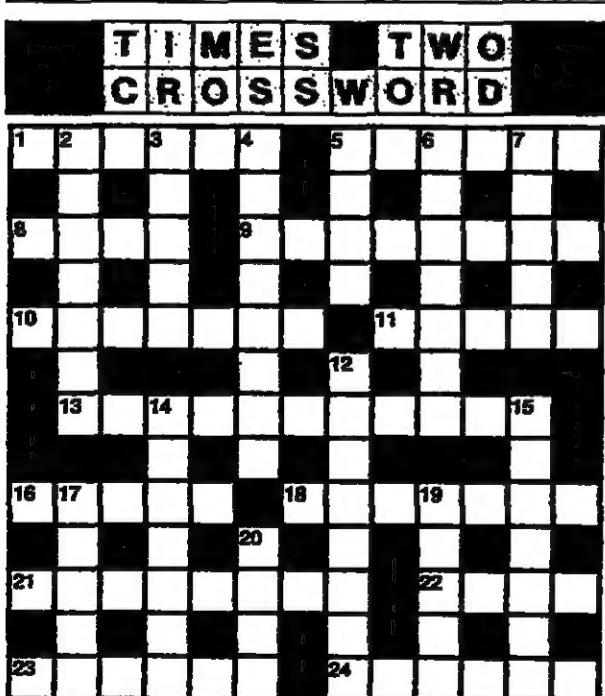
In Britain, there have been repeated calls for a ban on boxing after deaths and serious injuries in the ring. Last October, James Murray, died after a bantamweight title bout against Drew Docherty in Glasgow. Murray was knocked down in the final seconds of the 12-round bout, sparking a riot in the crowd as the boxer lay being treated. The middleweights, Michael Watson and Gerald McClellan, of the United States, have never recovered from head injuries they received in the ring.

Meanwhile, the World Boxing Union (WBU) light-heavyweight championship

is vacant after Jon Robinson, the WBU president, refused to sanction the contest last Friday between Montell Griffin and James Toney in Nevada. Toney, the titleholder from Chicago, was beaten by his Detroit opponent on a unanimous points decision in the 12-round contest.

The rules state that Toney should be stripped of his title even though his defeat came in a non-title bout. But Griffin, managed by London promoter Frank Maloney, is being regarded as the No 1 contender, rather than the champion. "He was none too pleased when I told him," Robinson said. "I refused to sanction the fight as the Nevada Commission insisted on appointing all three judges and the referee from Nevada."

"The WBU will not sanction any title fights in Nevada until they comply with the American Boxing Commissioners' guidelines, two from in and two from out of state."



No 961

ACROSS

- 1 Jacob's eldest son (Gen.) (6)
- 5 Enigmatic, riddling creature (6)
- 8 Wickedness (4)
- 9 RAF college (8)
- 10 Sickly sweet (7)
- 11 Hit hard: a pen (5)
- 13 Travelling bag: word such as *Oxbridge* (11)
- 16 Thin; unneeded (5)
- 18 Temporary substitute (7)
- 21 Wide-brimmed Mexican hat (8)
- 22 Thin: WW2 field marshal (4)
- 23 Tin/lead ware (6)
- 24 Seal (from orchard) (6)

DOWN

- 2 Surround (7)
- 3 Playground persecutor (5)
- 4 Soulbriquet (8)
- 5 Sleep in liquid (4)
- 6 What is the reason? (3,4)
- 7 Stocking material (5)
- 12 Greasily ingratiating (8)
- 14 Toasted cheese (7)
- 15 Radioactive element 92 (7)
- 17 Liabile; on one's front (5)
- 19 Tricky problem (5)
- 20 Mini-dam (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 960

ACROSS: 1 Crammer 5 Agais 8 Brood 9 Selter 10 Nut 11 Fledgling 12 Taster 14 Banger 17 Squamish 18 Bid 19 Capitol 20 Malta 21 Sedge 22 Deplete

DOWN: 1 Cabinet 2 Adopt 3 Mud 4 Rasher 5 Autograph 6 Gilding 7 Sprig 11 Fremantle 13 Strumped 15 Red tape 16 Billed 17 Socks 18 Bulge 20 Map

GIFT IDEAS FOR CHRISTMAS. PRICES INCLUDE DELIVERY TO EU CUSTOMERS. BEST OF THE WORLD ADD 10 PER CENT. SEND FOR FURTHER DETAILS. STERLING DOLLAR CHECKS ONLY 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